

THE TIMES

No. 66,065

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

RK

http://www.the-times.co.uk

WORLD CUP 98: THE DRAW

Full details
PAGES 50, 51

CHRISTMAS PARTY DRESSES

How to be a star for
under £50, PAGE 22

HAPPY HUNTING AT HIGHGROVE

WEEKEND joins the pack

VERSACE AT THE MET

MAGAZINE

Doorsteps to be swept away by new building rules

By Rachel Kelly
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE great British front doorstep is to vanish under the red tape of regulations. Beloved of sitcoms, scrubbed by generations of housewives, and a staple of urban architecture, the doorstep is set to disappear under changes to housebuilding regulations to be announced before Christmas.

Under the new rules, Nick Raynsford, the Construction Minister, will declare "level thresholds" mandatory on all new homes to ensure access for people in wheelchairs.

Existing buildings will not be affected.

The 150,000 new homes built annually will in future also have to have a downstairs lavatory accessible to the disabled, wider internal and external doors and corridors, and less steep footpaths and approaches. Public buildings, shops and offices already have to provide level thresholds.

The changes are the culmination of a decade of lobbying by organisations representing disabled and elderly people.

Roger Humber, the chief executive of the House Builders' Federation, said: "This will change the face of domestic architecture. It will require a major redesign of the fronts of most of the houses we build."

Richard Best, of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the housing charity, said: "These will be important measures, not just for the six million people who are disabled in some way, but for all of us who will benefit."

The regulations are likely to be implemented by April 1999. Builders will be required to make the front door, or a side door if there is one, level with the path or driveway.

The only exemptions will be for houses built on steep slopes, where steps are unavoidable.

Detached or semi-detached homes could put the level threshold at the rear of the property provided it was easily accessible from where a car would be parked.

External doors will probably be a minimum of 800mm wide, and internal doors 750mm wide. The main downstairs corridor is expected to be a minimum of 900mm and the downstairs lavatory entrance must be 750mm wide.

What builders must ensure — in the jargon of the industry — is "visi-

ability housing" for those in wheelchairs.

The ideas were first suggested by the concept of a "Lifetime Home" — one that would last from cradle to grave — developed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. Its report suggested 16 changes that the average home would have to undergo to qualify, including more far-reaching changes than the Government proposes.

The House Builders' Federation said that the changes could add £1,000 to the cost of the average two-bedroom house and would squeeze many first-time buyers out of the

market. "Builders will simply stop making two-bedroom houses and make three-bedroom ones instead," Mr Humber said. "And we don't have failsafe technical solutions at the moment to ensure that we keep the rain out."

The foundation said the changes would add only £200 to the cost of building a three-bedroom house. The Department of the Environment refused to confirm the changes but said that an announcement would be made in the House of Commons shortly.

Doorstep history, page 5

Help planned for farms hit by beef ban

By Philip Webster
and Michael Hornsby

AN EMERGENCY package of help for the livestock industry is being considered by the Government against a background of spreading protests by British farmers angry at the impact of cheap beef imports on their crisis-ridden industry.

As farmers blockading British ports were told last night that they were not above the law, the Cabinet also decided to set up a far-reaching inquiry into the origins and conduct of the BSE crisis as part of its efforts to restore confidence in British beef.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, issued a warning that the protests against cheap Irish beef imports were damaging the farmers' own interests and threatening Britain's close relationship with Ireland. He spoke as farmers were preparing to march on Dover and Folkestone in an extension of the campaign of port blockades that began in Holyhead and Fishguard in Wales and later spread to Seaham in Merseyside and Stranraer in south-west Scotland.

The dispute's escalation came as the Government's decision to ban within weeks the sale of beef on the bone sparked a wave of last-minute "panic-buying" from customers keen to stock up on ribs of beef, T-bone steaks and ox-tails. Ministers rejected accusations that they had overreacted to the latest scientific advice, which shows BSE had been detected in bone marrow. And Downing Street confirmed that a BSE inquiry stretching well back into the 1980s will be established before Christmas.

The investigation, expected to be headed by a judge, will



Cunningham: farmers warned on blockades

summon all the key figures involved, including the former Conservative ministers Stephen Dorrell and Douglas Hogg, and possibly the former Prime Minister, John Major. "We have long acknowledged that this issue is so serious, there must be some form of inquiry," the Prime Minister's press spokesman said.

It will also cover Dr Cunningham's latest decision — to ban the sale of beef on the bone — which sparked confusion yesterday over when it would take effect. Ministers are required by law to consult and then to lay an order before Parliament. Estimates as to how long that would take varied all day, with some officials suggesting it would be the new year before the ban could operate. However, by last night senior officials voiced the hope that it could be in place the week after next.

The Cabinet spent much of its meeting yesterday discussing the crisis. Afterwards, in the Commons, the minister said that the Government was considering "whether and how we can provide extra assistance... when I can make an announcement about that decision I will".

Ministers are believed to be considering extra help for the beef sector from within the agriculture budget, possibly by switching assistance that goes to the dairy industry. The money will be supplemented

by compensation from European Union funds.

Dr Cunningham emerged from a London meeting with Joe Walsh, his Irish counterpart, to pledge to do everything in his power to bring the chaos to a halt. "Farmers have no right to act outside the law. If this was a bunch of unemployed youngsters people would see it completely differently," he said.

The minister said that the protesters were "short-sighted" if they could not see the damage they were doing to Britain's reputation. "When French lorry drivers were blockading French ports farmers here were the first to complain, rightly so, that their interests were being affected," he said. Dr Cunningham added that his discussion with Mr Walsh had been "cordial but nevertheless frank. Joe has left me in no doubt about the strength of feeling in the Republic of Ireland about the illegal blockading of legitimate trade."

The Road Haulage Association called on port authorities to ensure all docks were kept open as farmers threatened round-the-clock pickets. "What started as a minor dispute is in danger of spiralling out of control, with no rule dictating who can and cannot transit to and from the UK," a spokesman said. "The British economy cannot be held to ransom."

Militant Welsh farmers were last night maintaining a round-the-clock protest at Holyhead, while others mounted a blockade of Fishguard. More than 500 farmers from Southern England were expected to gather at Dover's eastern docks.

News of the BSE inquiry was welcomed by MPs and relatives of CJD victims. Charles Kennedy, agriculture spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, hoped it would be "comprehensive, independent and public".

Shoppers rush, page 4



Clive Harold and the Prince at The Big Issue headquarters. The magazine seller said: "I only remember him because we both had big ears"

Prince and the pauper, old boys reunited

By Daniel McGrory
and Adam Fresco

THE PRINCE OF WALES clearly did not recognise the middle-aged man sitting next to him, whom he thought was about to explain what it is like to make a living by selling The Big Issue, the magazine for the homeless.

But self-confessed alcoholic and pauper Clive Harold stunned the Prince when he said: "Actually we were at school together."

The Prince stared at Mr Harold's lined and gaunt face. "Really, where and when?" he asked, turning his back on three other homeless vendors who looked similarly startled by the revelation.

The 49-year-old former journalist and author, who has been selling the magazine outside Holborn Underground station in London for only a week, said he remembered the Prince from their days at the Hill House prep school in Chelsea from the late Fifties. In those days, Mr Harold recalled, all he shared with the Prince was that both were teased for their prominent ears.

The pair then swapped reminiscences about having to walk "crocodile style, in single

file" through Sloane Square on their way to a Terrestrial Army ground to play football and how a teacher would try to raise their spirits by giving them sweets.

"It was acid drops" the Prince said, punching his old schoolfriend's arm. "No, they were strong mints," Mr Harold said. "We were in the same stream for about two years."

Afterwards, Mr Harold said: "The Prince did not remember me of course and I only remember him because we both had big ears and

because he was obviously well known there."

He had told the Prince, who was visiting the London headquarters of The Big Issue, that selling the magazine had brought discipline back into his life. "It gives people a purpose."

The Prince replied: "As long as you're all right, that's the main thing." As they parted, the Prince clapped him on the back and said: "Well done."

Wrapped up in his black greatcoat over a leather jacket Mr Harold produced his Father Christmas hat, which he wears to sell the magazine, and offered it to the Prince, who declined with as much grace as he could muster.

Mr Harold said later: "When I was five I lived in a mansion. My father was well-known and had lots of influential friends. "It is a long time ago and I cannot really remember if I was very friendly with the Prince. I said: 'This is a bit like The Goon Show'. Things went wrong with my life. I told him: 'I have made a few mistakes'."

"After leaving Hill House, I told him I went on to Millfield public school while he went to Gordonstoun."

"After college, I became a journalist and was writing

showbiz pages on Woman's Own and other women's magazines. I wrote a book called The Uninvited, which went to number eight in the best-seller lists. I still carry a copy of it around with me. It is a sort of security blanket. Everything

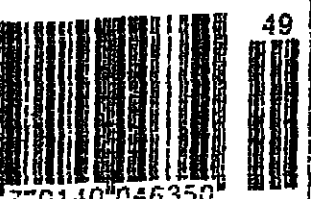
was going so well in my career. I was speaking with stars like Sylvester Stallone and I went to New York and Hollywood."

"I sold the film rights to my book in Hollywood but nothing. Continued on page 3, col 6

Christmas Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 9.30am to 6.00pm
Saturday 10.00am to 6.00pm Sunday 12.00 to 5.00pm

TV & RADIO	54.55
WEATHER	28
CROSSWORDS	28.56
LETTERS	25
OBITUARIES	27
MATTHEW PARRIS	24
ARTS	38.40
CHESS & BRIDGE	48
COURT & SOCIAL	26
MEDIA	44.47
EDUCATION	43
SPORT	48.54.56

Read the Times overseas
Australia \$10.00, Belgium 8.00, Canada \$10.00, Germany 10.00, France 10.00, Ireland 10.00, Italy 10.00, Japan 10.00, Netherlands 10.00, Norway 10.00, Sweden 10.00, Switzerland 10.00, Taiwan 10.00, USA \$10.00, UK 10.00, West Germany 10.00, Yugoslavia 10.00



England get Romania in World Cup

ENGLAND are in one of the easier pools after last night's 1998 World Cup draw in Marseille. They meet the seeded Romania, and Tunisia and Colombia, with the top two qualifying for the knock-out stage (John Goodbody writes).

Scotland have to play Brazil, four times winners of the 32-nation tournament, in the opening match in Paris on June 10. They also meet Morocco and Norway. Glenn Hoddle, England's coach, said: "The draw could have been a lot worse but it also could have been a bit easier. All in all we are not too disappointed."

The draw, pages 50, 51, 54

Right Hons to join queue

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

FORMER Cabinet ministers, forced to accept life without the trappings of power, are facing another cruel blow. After saying goodbye to their drivers, their red boxes and a hefty portion of their salaries, they are threatened with the loss of their traditional precedence in Commons debates.

A committee of MPs is set to recommend that members of the Privy Council — who are entitled to call themselves Right Honourable — should no longer be allowed to speak ahead of their colleagues.

That would leave backbench political heavyweights such as Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and even Sir Edward Heath having to wait their turn alongside relative unknowns from the 1997 Tory intake. The

prospect is even more alarming for Labour Privy Counsellors such as Tony Benn and Gerald Kaufman, who would find themselves competing on equal terms with the swollen ranks of their party's backbenchers.

However, it will delight the vast majority of MPs, who are outside the Privy Council and are therefore known as merely "Honourable Members". Many have sat for hours in the chamber with contributions prepared, watching the clock tick by as the time allocated for a debate is eaten up by one ex-officio holder after another.

All current and former Cabinet ministers are life members of the Privy Council, which was created more than 500 years ago to advise the sovereign but has now lost

most of its functions to government departments.

Membership, seen as an honour and demands little in the way of duties from most of those who belong, is also bestowed on some senior Ministers of State. Backbenchers with a distinguished record who have never been ministers may be appointed Privy Counsellors, but only rarely.

The recommendation is expected to come from the Commons modernisation committee in the new year. It has found support among both Conservative and Labour members of the committee as well as from the Liberal Democrats, but would have to be put to a vote of the whole House.

Parliament, pages 14 & 15

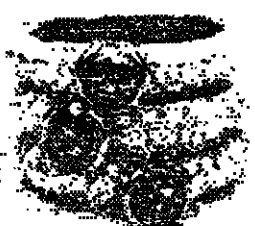
Halifax raises the cost of mortgages

THE Halifax yesterday delivered a bitter pre-Christmas blow to its 2.5 million borrowers, raising its mortgage rate from 8.45 to 8.7 per cent (Janet Bush writes).

The news meant that relief after the Bank of England's decision earlier in the day to leave base rates unchanged was short-lived. The Halifax said its move was a response to the Bank's increase last month.

A Halifax customer with an average £60,000 variable rate mortgage will pay almost £12 more a month. But borrowers whose payments are recalculated annually will pay as much as £100 more a month from April.

Rate lifted, page 29



Night and Day

Tiffany "Etoile" rings of pure diamonds and coloured stones. With a sapphire, £3,500. With a ruby, £3,700. With an emerald, £3,900.

TIFFANY & CO.

SINCE 1837.

LONDON 25 OLD BOND STREET W1

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 0121-499 2790

Herd instinct drives new farm labourers to seek fresh pastures

Lawrence Quinn, MP, represents Scarborough and Whitby. As you would expect in a Member from a North Yorkshire seat, he is worried about the livelihoods of farmers. "Farmers in my constituency," he began, explaining anxieties to Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister. "Nothing odd there."

No, what makes us blink is that Mr Quinn is a Labour MP. Not for 30 years has it been common for a farming constituency to return a Labour Member, but it is now. To

hear the axe-faced Gordon Prentice (Labour, Pendle), who looks and sounds like a Marxist polytechnic lecturer weaned on class war, recite figures for net incomes on hill land is disorientating.

Representing farmers has the same effect on a Labour politician as on a Conservative or Liberal Democrat. The MP falls prey to a sort of incontinence in expression of woe. Every problem is catastrophic, all sunshine drought, every shower a flood. At National Farmers' Union meetings in my constituency,

I used to smile at the irony: hardened, wind-tanned, frost-bitten sons of the soil — models, surely, of stoical understatement? — seem to flap at every breeze. Their urban cousins bite the lip.

While I was an MP, ship-building in the North East was virtually wiped out while communities found their lives destroyed, their future blanked. Around the same time, a Common Market milk quota scheme was brought in, regularising and in some cases limiting the quantity of milk the Milk



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Marketing Board would buy from each dairy farmer. This affected some farm incomes. The volume of noise from the farms vastly exceeded that from the shipyards.

Grasping of teeth, wild prophecies, threats and imprecations, almost drowned out the dignified expressions of despair from the shipworkers. Rural market

towns generated more fuss in a month than the whole of Newcastle upon Tyne in a decade.

Perhaps we should not have been surprised. European Agriculture is the last sector of industry still run on Communist principles, and (along with other parts of the public sector, such as doctors and dons) farmers have learned

from long experience of total dependency upon politicians for their incomes.

So it becomes necessary for observers to pass these outpourings of unbridled alarm through a verbal filter, scaling each adjective down about seven pegs on the rack of human suffering.

Jack Cunningham is well qualified to apply the filter. Languid, quick-minded, poised, articulate and cool, he is one of this Cabinet's surprise stars. To hear Dr Cunningham say "dorsal root ganglia" is one of the uncer-

pered pleasures of 1997. He will have needed his adjective filter yesterday. It wasn't just the Labour MPs who were upset.

John Greenway (C, Ryedale) called this "an unprecedented crisis". Farmers had "never been so angry". James Gray (C, N Wiltshire) said farmers were close to desperation. To Tom King (C, Bridgwater) the farmers' plight was the worst in a quarter century. Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield) said it was the worst for 15 years. David Prior (C, N

Norfolk) thought the scale of their problems exceeded by nothing but the arrogance of ministers. Even the rational David Curry (C, Skipton & Rippon) described exports as "dropping like a stone". The Liberal Democrat Paul Tyler (Cornwall N), whose authority is such that these days he is heard almost as Principal Opposition Spokesman, called ministers to action.

Join me, reader, in scaling down this language to appropriate. You should still conclude that farmers are in serious trouble.

Prisoners lose freedom to talk to journalists

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FRESH curbs on the freedom of prisoners to talk to journalists were imposed by the Court of Appeal yesterday when it rejected a ruling that such curbs were in breach of their right to free speech.

In a judgment which deals a blow to investigative journalism, Lord Justice Kennedy said: "The loss of that 'right' if it can properly be so described, is part and parcel of a sentence of imprisonment."

He can no longer go where he wishes. He is confined. He can no longer speak to those outside prison or receive visits from anyone other than his lawyer and his relatives and friends.

The judgment reverses the ruling of December 1996 won

by two prisoners who are serving life sentences for murders they say they never committed. Ian Simms, convicted at Liverpool Crown Court in 1989 of the murder of Helen McCourt, was being visited at Full Sutton jail by a journalist, Bob Woffinden, who wrote articles about his concern that he had been wrongly convicted.

Michael O'Brien, convicted at Cardiff Crown Court in 1988 of murder and robbery, contacted Karen Voisey of BBC Wales, who visited him at Long Lartin jail in 1995. The prison authorities said the journalists must sign an undertaking that any material obtained would not be used for professional purposes. When each refused to sign, further visits were not allowed.

Mr Justice Latham, a High

Court judge, found in favour of the prisoners last year, saying that the law demanded that the civil rights of an inmate should suffer only minimum interference. He said the restriction on communication with the media was "a restriction on the right of free speech".

Mr Woffinden, who has produced documentaries for Yorkshire TV and is author of *Hanratty — the Final Verdict*, said the ruling placed "a very unfair restriction on prisoners and an absurd restriction on journalists. Miscarriages of justice will continue, and it will not be satisfactory for prisoners to converse in writing because they are often reluctant to put down all the details on paper."

Adrian Clarke, solicitor for the prisoners, said an appeal to the House of Lords was likely. He said that the restriction could create a situation where wrongful convictions such as that of David Evans — the man released after serving 25 years for murder this week — would be hard to correct.

Paul Cavadino, principal officer for the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said: "Unless a journalist has abused visits, it cannot be right to bar them from visiting a prisoner and using information in the course of serious journalism about the criminal justice and penal process."



Tessa Jowell with Bernard Kouchner, the French Health Minister, yesterday

Tobacco ban under a cloud

From CHARLES BRENNER
IN BRUSSELS

THE prospects of an EU-wide ban on tobacco advertising hung in the balance last night as states wrangled over a compromise that would give

Britain an eight-year breathing space for the sponsorship of Formula One motor racing. The EU's complex voting arrangements meant that even if Britain's demands were met, the EU's eight-year-long campaign to outlaw all forms of tobacco advertising could collapse because of opposition from a minority led by Germany.

After a day of negotiation that featured a surprise move against Britain by Spain, Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, was holding out for a nine-year exemption for wearing sport of tobacco money. The period was deemed too long by Italy, Greece, Belgium and Finland. Pleading for time, Mrs Jowell pointed out that motor racing depended on \$100 million of tobacco sponsorship per year. A majority of states backed a compromise, presented by Luxembourg, holder of the EU presidency, that offered a

temporary exemption of eight years for the tobacco sponsorship of recognised world "events", which could include Formula One.

Hope for a quick compromise collapsed early yesterday when Jose-Manuel Roman, the Spanish minister, upset the voting equation by abandoning Madrid's support for the advertising ban.

"For political reasons," he said, Spain could not tolerate a special case being crafted to suit British desires while Germany's would be overridden by a majority vote for the ban. Under the draft, member states would have two years to ban media and public advertising, plus two years to phase out tobacco sponsorship. Governments would be allowed to designate special cases for a further four-year exemption provided these were events of international significance that already received tobacco money.

The day Blair's sister-in-law tried to pick up Alan Clark

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister's sister-in-law Lauren Booth has described how she tried to date the "cold, steely-eyed Lothario" Alan Clark, the Tory MP and former Cabinet Minister. But after making the attempt, she said she felt like a child who had foolishly poked a stick at a caged panther, Ms Booth, 28, says in *The Spectator* magazine.

The former model recalled how she tried to date Mr Clark at the recent *Spectator* parliamentary awards ceremony. "My reputation as a Valkyrie-like goddess (encouraged by bored journalists with columns to fill) was at stake as I met that cold, steely-eyed Lothario, Alan Clark," she wrote. "To leave the awards not having been asked out by him would, I was assured, be seen as a sure sign you're a woker."

Determinedly, I walked over to him and, smiling as demurely as I dared, announced: "It wouldn't be good form for either of us to leave here without having arranged an innocent lunch together."

"Time may indeed have crumpled those aquiline features, but as he turned his full and vaguely amused attention on me, I suddenly felt like a child that had foolishly poked a stick at a caged panther. He gave me a cool, brazen appraisal: 'My dear, I was going to ask you anyway,' he

growled. Thank goodness for that. 'Ms Booth wrote also of the "bizarre changes" to her way of life since May 1.

"To witness a historic moment can have peculiar repercussions. That moment for me was realised as I watched my charming, Marmite-sandwich-making brother-in-law change before my eyes at his Sedgfield constituency count into our leader."

Ms Booth also had some bad words for Humphrey the former Downing Street cat. She said: "Our paths crossed one afternoon in the Downing Street lobby. He looked a bit ragged. Moreover, he had the recognisance of a very senior civil servant — the cat was called Humphrey for nothing."

"Indeed, he gave me such a withering look of contempt that I shall never forget him. Nor will I forget the unpleasant odour that followed him about."

She added: "I certainly wouldn't have Humphrey living with me."

Diary, page 24



Alan Clark is described as a "steely-eyed Lothario" in an article by Lauren Booth, Cherie Blair's sister

"The tax benefits of many expertly managed PEPs have always come at a high price until now."

With our Midland Managed PEP, you can invest in an expertly managed portfolio of the best-known companies, including Rolls Royce and Tesco, without paying high charges. There are no initial withdrawal charges to pay, so you could save as much as £300* on a £6,000 single investment. And if you prefer to invest a smaller amount on a regular basis, you can — from as little as £25 per month. Call us now on the number below for further details.

Lines are open 8am-8pm Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Bank Holidays and 10am-2pm Saturdays.

*Based on a £6,000 lump sum investment in a PEP charging 5% initial fee.

Midland Bank Member HSBC Group

MIDLAND direct

CALL FREE
0800 299 299

Beginning of the end for council tendering

By POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government took the first step yesterday towards scrapping rules that require councils to offer service contracts to the private sector.

Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government Minister, named 35 areas where councils will be partly exempted from compulsory competitive tendering introduced by the Conservatives. Administrative work carried out by two police authorities, Cleveland and Greater Manchester, will also be included in the change, which begins next April.

A trial system, Best Value, aims to encourage local authorities to provide quality services as efficiently as possible, but without fear of being undercut by a private company offering a lower standard. Councils will be expected to consult local taxpayers before striking a balance between cost and quality.

Ms Armstrong said that authorities must not assume that they could keep all their contracts in-house regardless of cost. At a conference organised by the Local Government Association, she said that support for local government could decline, and councils could find themselves under threat of abolition by a future government.

Legislation is necessary to wholly to exempt councils from CCT.

Church sets out to reclaim 2000 for Christianity

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AS PLANS gather pace for the millennium celebrations vigorous attempts to reclaim the event for Christianity are underway in the nation's churches. A logo has been designed, candles are being made, a special service written and new songs in an attempt to link the secular festivities with the date's religious provenance.

A team appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Dr George Carey and Dr David Hope, is touring the country with the "Millennium Roadshow" urging clergy and churchgoers nationwide to use the occasion to proselytise.

"Two thousand is just a number with no content, no meaning, no significance, unless people are prepared to make some reference to Jesus of Nazareth," said the Rev Stephen Lynas, Archbishops' officer for the millennium, yesterday.

Addressing an audience of clergy and laity at the roadshow, in London for the day, Mr Lynas said: "The millennium is but two years and three weeks away. Yet one of the things we have yet to grasp is the question of whose millennium it is."

Even though the millennium was essentially marking the 2000th birthday of Jesus Christ, both churches and the

public were failing to make this link at present, he said. "Here in the capital, there is a great expectation about partying, and a lot of rude comment about the Dome. But people don't really know what the millennium is about. We have to remind people that it means something."

He urged a return to the Latin, *anno domini*, "the year of our Lord". Mr Lynas said: "We must claim the year for ourselves. We actually have to say, this belongs to us. The churches' task for the millennium is to forge a link in people's minds between the year 2000 and the name of Jesus Christ."

He was speaking just days after Peter Mandelson told Parliament that the New Millennium Experience company had been told to concentrate on "spiritual renewal". Mr Mandelson, in a written reply to a question, said the role Christianity had played "in shaping this country and the rest of the world over the past 2000 years" would be emphasised.

But the experience would also reflect the multi-faith nature of British society. The churches' millennium roadshow, organised by the ecumenical body, Churches Together in England, will use a straightforward logo, with the words "New Start".

Mandelson fails in nutrition intervention

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER MANDELSON has failed in his attempt to intervene over the role of the Food Standards Agency, the new food safety watchdog.

The White Paper on the agency, which has now been postponed till January, will confirm that the responsibility for nutritional standards will move from the Health Department to the agency.

But Mr Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, had been pressing for nutrition to stay at Health, suggesting that the agency should confine itself to food safety.

Professor Philip James, the scientist who is to head the agency, has argued that the new body should advise on policy on nutrition. Others on the Cabinet sub-committee on the agency, chaired by David Clark, are said to have agreed.

A draft White Paper was circulated last month assuming that this would be the case. But Mr Mandelson intervened at the last moment. Whitehall sources suspect that his request was linked to food industry fears that the agency would take a tough line on nutritional labelling which could affect sales. Mr Mandelson has vehemently denied that he has come under any pressure.

Beef issue, page 4

Writer who went to school with Prince Charles changed name for career as gossip columnist

Mystery man who ended in shop doorway

BY ADRIAN LEE, ADAM FRESKO, DANIEL MCGROARY AND KATHERYN KNIGHT

PICTURES of a fresh-faced Prince Charles hang on the panelled walls of Hill House International School at Hans Crescent, near Sloane Square in Chelsea. One, taken in January 1957, shows the eight-year-old Prince arriving nervously for his first day.

One face that could not be found in a gallery of former pupils was that of Clive Harold. Mr Harold told the Prince yesterday that he had taught him about his big ears and they had swapped sweaters as young pupils at Hill House. He recalled how they tramped through the streets of Chelsea to play football.

The Prince, visiting the *Big Issue* office in London, clearly could not remember him, and the school will find no record of Clive Harold having attended. Nor does St Catherine's House have a birth certificate for him.

Indeed, shortly after the Prince and Mr Harold parted, officials from St James's Palace were on the case, ringing Millfield School where Mr Harold said he went after spending two years streamed with the Prince.

Harry Hobson, Millfield's archivist, confirmed he had received a call from St James's Palace. "I spent several hours going through every record we have but I could find no trace of a pupil called Clive Harold. When I called the Palace back and told them we had no records they seemed grateful for the information."

The answer appears to lie in the *nom de plume* Mr Harold adopted for his career as a journalist and writer. He is believed to have been born in Bristol in 1948 under the name of Clive H-Stutter. At Millfield they have a record of a Clive Stutter. It is understood the two met when Prince Charles joined Hill House in January 1957.

One major discrepancy in

Mr Harold's story is that he met the Prince when he was five years old. He also claims to have been in the same stream as the young Charles for two years. However, the Prince did not go to Hill House until he was eight, in January 1957, and only stayed for two terms. In October 1957 he moved to Cheam school in Berkshire.

While Charles was being groomed as the Prince of Wales, Mr Harold said he became a journalist, working for *Women's Own*, the *Evening Standard* and *The Sun*. He claims to be the first journalist to interview the film

hellraiser himself. "He had a delightful wife called Linda and she was right for him because she treated him like a child. He was a showbiz groupie and he often dressed better than the people he was interviewing, with lots of gold and leather jackets."

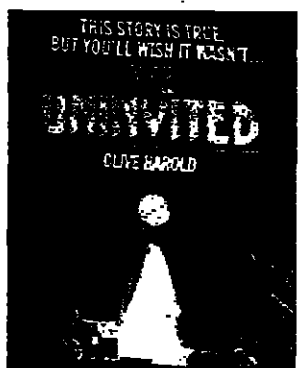
Mr Harold is believed to have married twice, having Joby by his first marriage before marrying a woman called Eva.

David Dorman, editor in chief of *Woman's Own* and *Now* magazine, was deputy features editor in 1982 when Mr Harold worked there between 1981 and 1983. He said: "I don't think even he would pretend he was the best journalist in the world. He attempted to write a gossip column for *Woman's Own* without every worrying about deadlines."

"He dressed the part and looked the part of a gossip columnist, always looking smart and the women fell for it. They loved him and frequently rang the office for him. He was always someone who could have ended up running the *Daily Mirror* as easily as selling the *Big Issue*."

As well as reporting, Mr Harold also wrote a book about encounters with extra terrestrials called *The Uninvited* in 1979, which got to number eight in best seller list. He said: "I sold the film rights to my book in Hollywood but nothing came of it."

According to Mr Harold yesterday, his downfall began 10 years ago when his second marriage failed. "While things were going well in my career, my private life was falling apart. I realised that I had not given enough time to my family and friends. I suppose the booze got me in the end. I lost my house and one day I woke up in a shop doorway in the Strand. I had lost everything."



Mr Harold's book became a best-seller

actor Sylvester Stallone, to have written a gossip column for *Women's Own*, and to have travelled to New York and Hollywood to interview the rich and famous.

During the late 1970s and the early 1980s, when the Prince became engaged to Diana Spencer, Mr Harold was working in Los Angeles as a showbusiness writer, interviewing stars for magazines and newspapers. In 1979 he conducted an interview for *The Sun* with the actor Lee Marvin about his life as a hell-raiser.

According to one colleague, he was something of a



Prince Charles, below, arriving at Hill House school and, above second left, playing football in Chelsea watched by members of the Royal Family



Prince and the pauper

Continued from page 1

ing came of it. While things were going well in my career, my private life was falling apart. I realised that I had not given enough time to my family and friends.

"I suppose the booze got me in the end. I have been married twice and it was when my second marriage failed that things really fell apart. I lost my house and one day I woke up in a shop doorway in the Strand. I had lost everything."

He said that over the next ten years he fought hard to try to pull himself together, with varying success. "I have joined a writing

class here and teach others to do what I should be doing."

John Bird, *The Big Issue* founder, said later: "The Prince told me as he left 'It just shows you, doesn't it?'"

"This meeting illustrates that anyone can find themselves on the streets, no matter what start they had in life."

Fellow vendors and staff at *The Big Issue* had only learnt of Mr Harold's privileged background as the son of "a well-known city millionaire financier" minutes before the Prince's arrival.

Jason Searle, the senior sales manager, said: "I laughed and said 'yeh, so did I' but he insisted it was all

true. He had just come in to pick up his magazines to sell and we asked for volunteers to meet the Prince."

Mr Harold was selective in the autobiographical information he was prepared to divulge about himself until he accepted a lucrative offer from a tabloid newspaper.

Last night Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Townsend, the headmaster of Hill House, said he could not remember Mr Harold and Millfield School had no record either.

However, journalist colleagues thought Harold was a *nom de plume* he adopted in later years after beginning life as Clive Stutter.

... and a rich man returns to rags

BY RICHARD DUCE

A DOWN-AND-OUT rescued from the streets of London by a wealthy German woman has returned to Britain to highlight the plight of the homeless.

Steven Smith and Hannelore Gais fell in love more than 13 years ago before she realised that he was a drug addict and sleeping rough. Undeterred, she introduced him to her family in Munich, where the couple married and now live in a £200,000 house. He kicked his drug habit and embarked on a successful career in property.

Mr Smith, 54, has returned to Leeds, where in the 1980s he also slept rough, and hopes to organise a march to lobby Parliament. To get publicity for his cause he will again sleep rough for two



Steven Smith, now wealthy, and his wife Hannelore

weeks, his only currency a phonecard to contact home to Munich.

Earlier this week he shed his designer clothes in a lavatory at Leeds station, to bed down on a camping mat in freezing temperatures. Minutes after the change he admitted he already felt dif-

ferent. "No one looks at you when you are a tramp — you become a nobody."

He added yesterday: "I believe I have to give something back to the life I once lived. It will remind me of how lucky I am. I had been living a life of destruction for five years and would have

continued to do so if I had not met Hannelore."

His wife, 42, said: "He feels very strongly about his past and is able to empathise with people living on the street and the hellhole lifestyle they have. I knew I had to let him go back to face old memories and raise public awareness about homelessness."

Mr Smith spotted his future wife in a London pub. High on amphetamines, he made an approach to her. "I knew she was special. I knew I had to get to know her and that is what saved me."

Mr Smith said he had been determined not to let Hannelore go. "A new softer bell was ringing in my head and I felt there was a light at the end of the tunnel. Somehow I got myself admitted to a psychiatric ward and took control of my drug addiction."

Freak wave washed yachtsman to death

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN died when a freak wave swept him off a yacht which his wife had bought him as a 40th birthday present, an inquest was told yesterday.

The 20ft wave washed Paul Andree into the Solent as he accompanied a yachting expert on the *Zoe Ann's* maiden voyage to Dartmouth, where extra safety equipment was to be fitted. Beverly Andree told the inquest at Portsmouth that her husband was a safety-conscious man. She added that she and Mr Andree, a construction engineer from East London, had been awarded crew-competence certificates after attending a week-long course.

However, the inquest was told that Mr Andree had repeatedly ignored suggestions that he wear a lifejacket and harness during the trip on November 8. Andrew Lander, a qualified yacht master, who had been contracted to sail the vessel from its berth in Chichester, West Sussex, to Dartmouth, said that despite worsening weather conditions Mr Andree was not wearing a lifejacket or a harness. "I had said that he should be clipped

but he did not reply. He was not wearing a lifejacket or a harness."

Mr Andree was swept overboard half a mile from Chichester harbour. "He was holding what I assumed was a harness. But it was a main sheet rope. Then another wave broke and he was swept away. I did not see him again."

Mr Lander tried to look for him but the engine failed. He threw out a marker buoy and lifebelt and signalled mayday. James Kenyon, the East Hampshire Coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death.



Andree was not wearing harness or lifejacket

Wife who ran away with boy walks free

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MARRIED woman who ran away to America with a boy aged 14 admitted several charges when she appeared before a High Court judge in Nottingham yesterday.

The 33-year-old mother admitted gross indecency with the boy — who was then 13 — between June 1 and September 1 last year. She also pleaded guilty to two charges of indecent assault and of abducting a child.

Nottingham Crown Court was told the woman and the boy had had a consensual sexual relationship for a year before they flew to the United States to start a new life. They were arrested by the FBI in July this year after spending ten days travelling in Florida.

Mr Justice Potts put the woman on probation for two years on each count, to run concurrently. He said he took into account the boy's own maturity, the punishment she had already endured, and the effect a custodial sentence would have on her family.

"I fully recognise... that the boy was a willing and active participant in what went on. I also proceed on the basis that at all times you and

he, to put it at its lowest, were extremely fond of each other. But even these matters cannot excuse the seriousness of what you did."

Although no one would ever be certain, the judge said it appeared to him that the boy in question had not suffered long-term harm. The boy admitted he was not "screwed up and does not feel he has been abused by you."

He told the woman: "The effect of what you did, however, on yourself and on your own family has been catastrophic. You were held in custody in shackles in Florida for six weeks in July. I have not the slightest doubt that you and your husband suffered from the attentions of the media."

Testimonials he had received from members of the public had helped to influence his decision. He had also attached great importance to a letter submitted by her husband. "It says a great deal about his qualities and a great deal about yours."

Mr James Chadwin, QC, for the defence, said the woman was the victim of an unhappy marriage and had felt vulnerable and unloved.



'Customers are very angry. They do not believe there is a danger from organically fed prime beef'

Shoppers rush to buy banned cuts of beef

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BUTCHERS were besieged yesterday by customers rushing to stock up on ribs of beef, sirloin, ox tails and T-bone steaks before the Government's ban on bone-in cuts comes into force.

Supermarkets said beef sales generally were holding up well and reported little sign of alarm among shoppers over the latest scientific warnings about possible risks from "mad cow" disease in beef sold on the bone.

The Ministry of Agriculture was unable to say exactly when the ban would take effect. Supermarkets have already voluntarily withdrawn beef on the bone but many butchers said they would go on supplying customers until ordered to stop.

Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, said he planned to implement the ban "as soon as possible". Officials said the aim was to implement the ban after a week or ten days of consultation.

Roger Kelsey, of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, which represents 10,000 independent

butchers in England and Wales, said: "The risk from beef bones is absolutely minimal, as the scientists admit. We are telling our members that until the ban becomes law, they should go on selling what their customers want."

David Lidgate, who runs one of London's oldest butchers in Holland Park Avenue, said: "We had a tremendous run on ribs of beef this morning, with several dozen snapped up. Trade was probably ten times the normal rate."

Gordon Hepburn, national chairman of the Guild of Q Butchers, also reported brisk demand for bone-in beef at his shop in Mountnessing, Essex. "My very first customer this morning wanted three ribs of beef and an ox tail and asked me to put aside another few ox tails for the weekend."

John Grabowski, proprietor of F. Bosworth Butchers in Loughton, Essex, said: "We have had people coming in panic-buying. One chap bought six T-bone steaks to put in the freezer."

Joe Collier, of Eastwoods Butchers in Berkhamsted,



Taking stock pensive farmers at Merton livestock centre near York yesterday. Butchers, however, reported increased sales of bone-in beef.

Hertfordshire, said he had sold a week's worth of ribs in one day. "Customers are very angry. They do not believe there is a danger from organically fed, prime beef."

About 5 per cent of beef is eaten on the bone. Sales are worth £150 million a year, with £70 million sold through shops and £80 million via

hotels and restaurants.

Dr Cunningham decided to ban bone-in cuts on advice from the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee that BSE infectivity had been found in dorsal root ganglia, nervous tissue lying with the bone of the spinal column. The research also showed that infectivity might be present in

bone marrow in cattle already showing clinical symptoms of BSE, though this finding is regarded as "provisional". The scientists said tests had failed to detect any infectivity in muscle, meat or blood.

The risk to the public is described as extremely small. It is estimated that next year only three out of 2.2 million

cattle slaughtered for human consumption will be near enough to the end of the incubation period for BSE to raise the possibility of infectivity in their dorsal root ganglia.

Irish lorry drivers' representatives last night called on their members to challenge blockades at ports in Britain. The Irish Road Haulage Asso-

ciation said drivers should not return to Ireland, as they have done since Sunday when the protests began. Brian Farrell, its spokesman, said the 4,700 member companies had lost too much money to tolerate further blockades.

Leading article and Letters, page 25

All in the game as poultry market goes wild

By ROBIN YOUNG

THIS is going to be a hard winter for pheasants, partridges and wildfowl. Shooters are out to get them in large numbers to satisfy a rapidly growing British appetite.

The Game Marketing Executive, established last year to promote sales of game in Britain, calculates that the value of the game and exotic meat market has doubled since 1992 and will grow from £34 million this year to at least £56 million by 2001. Its annual survey reports "virtually every high street retailer seeing increased sales of game this year".

Mick Tracey, who buys game for Asda, said yesterday: "Our game sales are 62 per cent up on last year. By the second week of this season sales were better than the very best week of last season, which was around Christmas. People are looking for poultry with more flavour and increased exposure in the food press has increased awareness that game is low in fat, quick and easy to cook and that important little bit different."

Sue Clifton, Safeway's game buyer, said: "The last three weeks have been excellent for game sales. We are now working on some new lines." High street butchers, too, are turning back to game and reporting increasing sales. In Mayfair, Richard Garrett, of Allen's of Mount Street, one of London's biggest game dealers, said: "A lot more people are doing game this year. They have jumped on our bandwagon."

Charles Ashley Black of The Game Larder, in Claygate, Surrey, added: "Sales are buoyant, particularly for pheasant and venison, and in the run up to Christmas, wild boar is proving very popular."

Pheasants are also notably cheap this year. Those in Asda are selling at £2.99 each. Hitherto more than half British game has been exported but the strength of the pound has damaged exports, pushing down prices at home.

Chefs take stock as customers refuse to swallow scare stories

By ROBIN YOUNG

I DICED with BSE yesterday at a cost of £50 plus service. At Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane in London's Mayfair, the management were struggling with the implications of the Government's latest disclosures about the connection between beef bones and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human form of BSE.

"The bouillon oxtail with red wine and truffle essence is off," announced Nico Ladenis, the chef-proprietor, consigning the lead item on his £74-a-head gastronomic menu to the dustbin. "We cannot serve that

with the scare that is on at the moment."

There was, pointed out Paul Rhodes, the chef de cuisine, four litres of oxtail stock for the bouillon already prepared. "Then I will have a big bowl myself," Mr Ladenis said, suddenly beaming.

I joined him. "If people order it specifically, well and good," Mr Ladenis said. He added: "We are not so much affected as some. Since 1976 I have made my basic brown sauce principally from chicken stock but there are some veal and beef bones in too. Just a few in a very large pot, to add a little extra gelatine." The

consequence, Mr Ladenis found on analysing his menus with Chef Rhodes yesterday, was that three more dishes included in the 11-course gastronomic menu might require modification when the government ban on beef bones in food preparation comes into full force. All but one dish among the meat and offal main courses on the restaurant's *à la carte* menu would also be affected. "The worst would be if I had to take off the calf's sweetbreads," Mr Ladenis lamented. "That is an absolute delight."

The sweetbreads, like the pigeon, duck breast, veal cutlet and to a less extent the saddle of lamb, employed sauces in which the veal and beef bones made a small but significant contribution. The fillet of Scotch beef, though usually served without sauce and "safely" off the bone, could be at risk if customers asked for a sauce accompaniment.

The milk-fed veal cutlet, which I chose as my main course, was especially risky because, though of Dutch origin, it was served on the bone, and no one could tell me that the calf from which it originated was less than six months old at death.

"The usual killing age for veal is more like nine months or just under a year," Mr Ladenis said. "If beef and veal bones cannot be used any more, then we will have to make our brown sauce entirely with chicken bones and reduce it further to make it stronger. We could get extra gelatine from beef sinew but it is not the same as bones and I think would not be as good."

Other customers in the dining room tucked into fillet steaks, BSE publicity and an E12 supplement notwithstanding. "I gave up paying attention to health experts years ago," one said. "I am 68 years old. If I contract BSE I will be ga-ga when I am 80. So where is the news in that?"



Ladenis supping his oxtail soup yesterday

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DRIVING MISS DAISY

GENE CLOSE EDWYNE MCDORMAND PAUL COLLINS JANE BLANCHETT JAMES EHLE ANITA TER STEEGE THANA MARGULIES

"A powerful drama with an amazing female cast"

"Epic stuff"

PARADISE ROAD

Courage echoes forever.

EXCLUSIVE WEST END PRESENTATION STARTS TODAY

CHAPELWORTH AVE 0151 970 0015

AND 6 SELECTED CINEMAS

CALL FREE 1 800 100 1000

Which is the right PC for you and your family?

Call Maple...

Together we will find the answer.

So you and a million others are going to invest in a PC or two this season. What specification do you need? What software do you want for yourself? What software do you want for the family? Do you buy from a shop or showroom, or buy direct from the likes of Maple the build to order manufacturer and save an average of around 30% of retail prices. Can you buy it absolutely interest free, even send it back within 21 days if you don't like it? (excluding carriage costs). Then what quality of technical support and service will you get? Maple have the answers (the honest answers). So please don't go anywhere until you call us!

Standard Features: All Maple Systems include • 14" 286p Non Interlaced SVGA Colour Monitor • 3.5" 1.44Mb Floppy Disk Drive • Microsoft Windows 95 (inc back-up CD) • IBM Voice Recognition Software with Headphones and Microphone • 12 Months Parts and Labour Warranty

MINERVA 599C	MINERVA 899CMX	MINERVA 999A	MATRIX 300P
<p>Full Specified, Fully Upgradeable, Internet Ready Multimedia PC. Ideal as a Home / Office Workstation. The perfect PC for schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66MHz Pentium Processor Manufactured by IBM 512K Cache 16MB EDO RAM 800 CD-ROM 1GB Hard Disk Drive Data Express 2MB Graphics Card 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive 7 Watt AC Powered Amplified Stereo Speakers 33.6 KBIT Approved Fax/Modem Internet Ready - Maple Online Pre-installed Choice of ONE of the Software bundle packs below plus standard specification as above. <p>System includes IBM Voice Rec. Software with Headphones & Microphone & Printer Cable.</p> <p>£599 or £702.83 inc VAT</p>	<p>With 64MB RAM combined with Ultra Fast 66MHz Processor, the 899CMX is a stunning superfamily PC. Highly Recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66MHz Pentium Processor with P90 Technology Manufactured by IBM 512K L2 Cache 64MB EDO RAM 24x P90 CD-ROM 4GB Hard Disk Drive 3D WaveTable Stereo Sound 7 Watt AC Powered Amplified Stereo Speakers 64K Graphics: 50 chips: 4MB 4MB system RAM Microsoft Windows IBM Voice Rec. Software with Headphones & P90 33.6 KBIT Approved Fax/Modem Internet Ready - Maple Online Pre-installed Choice of TWO of the Software bundle packs below plus standard specification as above. <p>£899 or £1056.32 inc VAT</p>	<p>Our Biggest Seller Ever! Our most highly specified sub £1000 PC. Most System for Business and Power Users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMD K5 200MHz P90 Enhanced Processor 512K L2 Cache 64MB EDO RAM 43GB Hard Disk Drive 4MB Data Express 3D Wave Graphics (now MX2 via System RAM) PC 2511 Motherboard 3D WaveTable Stereo Sound 24x P90 CD-ROM 7 Watt AC Powered Amplified Stereo Speakers Corel WordPerfect 6 Office Suite IBM Voice Rec. Software with Headphones & P90 33.6 KBIT Approved Fax/Modem Choice of TWO of the Software bundle packs below plus standard specification as above. <p>New Includes 15" TFT Digital Monitor</p> <p>£999 or £1173.83 inc VAT</p>	<p>The latest generation of processors from Intel. The Pentium II Series 300MHz Processor with new Intel LX Chipset plus AGP (Advanced Graphics Port) gives the ultimate performance for Business and Games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel Pentium II 300MHz Processor ASUS Motherboard with Intel LX Chipset 22MB DRAM 43GB Ultra DMA Hard Disk Drive 512K Cache 24x P90 CD-ROM 33.6 KBIT Approved Fax/Modem 3D WaveTable Stereo Sound IBM Voice Rec. Software with Headphones & P90 Choice of TWO of the Software bundle packs below plus standard specification as above. <p>£1399 or £1643.83 inc VAT</p>

BUNDLE PACK 1 - OFFICE
Lotus SmartSuite 97, 1 CD including 123, Word, Project, Approach, SmartDraw, Organizer & SmartCalendar

BUNDLE PACK 2 - DOMESTIC KNOWLEDGE
4 CD's including The Way Stage Work, Spectrum Children's Encyclopedia, Discover, Hunter & Children's Dictionary

BUNDLE PACK 3 - DOMESTIC KNOWLEDGE
4 CD's including The Way Stage Work, Spectrum Children's Encyclopedia, Discover, Hunter & Children's Dictionary

BUNDLE PACK 4 - DOMESTIC KNOWLEDGE
4 CD's including The Way Stage Work, Spectrum Children's Encyclopedia, Discover, Hunter & Children's Dictionary

BUNDLE 5 - CD EDUCATION PACK
6 CD's, 35 Titles (Hachinson New Century Encyclopedia (12 Vol), Hachinson Kids 96, Hachinson World Atlas AND MANY, MORE...

PLUS Olivetti JPI90 Colour Printer
600x300dpi, 3ppm, 1 yr On-site Warranty

£59 or **£69.33** inc VAT

Maple Computer Corporation (UK) Limited, Ardent House, Gates Way, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 3HG.

TELEPHONE: **01438-72-62-62**
FAX: 01438 35-71-00

LINES OPEN: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-6:30PM SATURDAY 10AM-2:30PM
GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION AND MAJOR CORPORATE PURCHASE ORDERS WELCOME

Maple's standard system is normally ready within 7-10 working days of order placed. For special configurations, please allow longer. All systems are delivered by air to the UK. Delivery to other parts of the world is available on request. Delivery to other parts of the world is available on request. Delivery to other parts of the world is available on request.

هكذا من الأهل

IF THE Englishman's home is his castle, the front doorstep is the closest he has to a drawbridge. A doorstep is the threshold which nobody crosses except by invitation.

From the humblest country cottage and the artisan's terrace house to the grandest mansion in Belgravia, there is hardly a dwelling in Britain without a doorstep. It keeps the outer world at bay and lends a little dignity to every entrance. More than that, it is a place where a milk bottle can be left without seeming abandoned for anyone to seize.

A million housewives scrubbed front doorsteps, not just to put on a show to the world but to remove summer dust or the attentions of any passing dog. When streets had no paving, doorsteps came into being to divert water into rudimentary gutters.

In a deluge, the step stopped water from pouring under the front door. This is no small matter: in recent years, when some shopping streets have been pedestrianised, shopkeepers have found rainwater gushing in. Even in the late 17th century, many London houses had

The front doorstep is to be banished by new building regulations. Marcus Binney dwells on its cultural significance

basements, often with the kitchen at the front. To win a little light, the ground floor was raised a few steps so that a better window could be introduced. When front basement areas became common in the mid-18th century, front doors were raised still higher to provide more light and air for basement rooms below.

A raised front doorstep is a feature of terrace houses all over Europe and North America. The canal-side houses of Amsterdam had a "stoop", a flight of four or five steps to raise the main rooms above flood water, and this was repeated in the much taller stoops of New York "brownstones", where New Yorkers came out to chat on hot evenings.

It is inevitable in this age of regulation that the doorstep should be abolished. A few years ago, in Gibraltar, Treasury regulations deemed that any army house with a step or two at the front door was sub-standard. The military had to

forsake elegant Regency houses in the old town for new, Aldershot-style boxes, shrouded in mist for much of the year on the southernmost point of the Rock.

☐ The doorstep is thought to have become a widespread feature of townscapes in the Victorian era (Rachel Kelly writes). Richard Holder, senior architectural adviser to the Victorian Society, said: "Chimneys belched soot and doorsteps did get filthy. Local government was so disorganised that the business of roadsweeping was not carried out."

In this century, doorsteps proved a feature of popular culture, from the music-hall song *On Mother Kelly's Doorstep* to scenes in *Coronation Street*. They enable the traditional act of carrying a bride over the threshold. "Somehow, carrying your bride over a slope doesn't seem quite the same," Richard Pollard, secretary of Save Britain's Heritage, said.



Making an impressive entrance: earlier this century, a spotless doorstep was a matter of domestic pride

Probation defended by judge for killer

BY RICHARD DUCE

A JUDGE accepted yesterday that he was open to criticism for placing a mentally disturbed killer on probation.

Judge Michael Coombe said he believed doctors' evidence that Stacey Adams, 59, who stabbed Diane Bristow 42 times, could be treated for his illness rather than detained in hospital.

An Old Bailey jury had earlier cleared Adams of murder but convicted him of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The judge said: "I suppose in the circumstances of this case, I would have had in mind a light term of about three years."

However, the judge said that Adams had had almost the equivalent of a three-year term in custody while on remand. "It is right that I should stress that ... because it may be that members of the public might criticise me because it may appear he has got away without punishment. He has already had a deprivation of liberty."

Miss Bristow, 59, and Adams were staying at the same house in Thornton Heath, South London. Dr James Anderson, who has been treating Adams at the medium-secure Bracton Centre in Bexley, said he had identified an "organic defect" in his brain. "He was isolated, depressed and extremely frightened and aroused at the time of the killing."

Solicitor in dock over angry remark

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SOLICITOR who was driven to remark privately that the court clerk was a "silly cow" is facing a disciplinary investigation after being reported by a police officer.

Arnold Rosen, a London solicitor, is being investigated by the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors after speaking his mind to his client who was on charges of false accounting at Woodspring Magistrates' Court at Weston-super-Mare.

His comments were made after he had sought an adjournment in the case and the Bench had withdrawn to consider his request. While waiting, he had a conversation with the defendant, standing in the vicinity of the dock.

what he saw as the court clerk's intervention in his request for an adjournment and putting forward of points as to why his request should not be granted.

Yesterday Mr Rosen said he could not confirm the use of the words "silly cow". But he added: "Those words were in accordance with my sentiments at the time."

The New York Times *Journal*, which reported: "Mr. Rosen's case, said, 'in a perfect world perhaps solicitors should not vent their displeasure to their clients. In the less than perfect world in which we live, they often do.' So, it adds, do police officers." If each were to be reported to the OSS or the relevant chief constable, where would we all be?"

Investment Rates

	Gross % Annual	Gross % Monthly*
£100,000 or more	7.30	7.07
£25,000 - £99,999	7.20	6.97
£10,000 - £24,999	6.95	6.74

	Gross % Annual	Gross % Monthly
£250,000 or more	6.45	6.27
£100,000 - £249,999	6.20	6.03
£25,000 - £99,999	5.85	5.70
£10,000 - £24,999	5.45	5.32

	Gross % (Applied)	Gross % (GAB)*
12-month Bond	5.90	5.90
6-month Bond	5.52	5.60

*Monthly rates, which compounded, equal the annual rates shown
 at corresponding annual rate when interest added to the account

Details of rates are available by calling the special Hotline on 01-481 718020
 or from our branch of Robinson & Co. (over) plc.

C&G Channel Islands Limited

Channel Islands Ltd. P.O. Box 262, St. Peter Port, Guernsey.
Channel Islands C.I. Co. Telephone 01481 715422. Fax 01481 715496.
Channel Islands Limited is incorporated and has its principal place of business in the Channel Islands.

It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Citicorps Inc. (Citicorps plc which is registered in England and Wales). The ultimate parent company is Citicorp TMI Group plc which is registered in Scotland. C & G (Channel Islands) Limited is registered as a deposit-taker in the Channel Islands and carries out its business under the Banking Supervision Rules of the Channel Islands. Late 1994, it is assumed.

Deposits made with C.B.C. Channel Islands Limited are not covered by the
UK Banking Act 1977.

[illegible]

7. - from the date of the agreement, in any time. If we do, we will tell you early.

— Moët & Chandon. Turning nature into art —

Tomorrow in
The Saturday
TIMES



CHRISTMAS
BOOKS
ISSUE



WHITEHOUSE
Fast, funny
and furious

Al Fayed accused of £10m bribe bid

Rowland's writs charge Harrods
owner of ordering deposit box
break-in. Andrew Pierce reports

TINY ROWLAND is accusing Mohamed Al Fayed of offering him £10 million and the ownership of an exclusive shirt shop to level false bribery allegations against Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary.

Six writs have been issued against Mr Al Fayed and five of his alleged co-conspirators. In them, Mr Rowland also accuses the owner of Harrods of ordering staff to break in to his safe deposit box at the Knightsbridge store. The box contained precious jewels and confidential documents.

The papers, placed in the High Court yesterday, accuse Mr Al Fayed of masterminding the break-in to try to uncover material with which to blackmail Mr Rowland, the former head of Lorrho, into lying on oath about Mr Howard accepting bribes.

Mr Rowland, 79, claims in the writ that Mr Al Fayed, 64, offered him a sweeter of £10 million, plus the ownership of Turnbull & Asser, shirtmakers to the Prince of Wales, in return for telling a Parliamentary select committee he had paid Mr Howard £1.5 million to open a Department of Trade and Industry investigation into the takeover of the House of Fraser.

Mr Al Fayed has waged a long campaign to overturn the findings of the DTI inquiry. It concluded that he was a liar and a cheat. A subsequent

Parliamentary investigation concluded that there was no evidence that Mr Howard acted improperly in the DTI investigation.

According to the writs, after the safe deposit box break-in the two men met over lunch on the fifth floor of Harrods in March 1996. Mr Al Fayed "claimed that he had information and or documents damaging to" Mr Rowland.

Mr Rowland claims that the purpose of the break-in "was to try to obtain material which he could use, or threaten to use," against him, "to persuade him to give false evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Standards and Privileges, which was at that time about to commence an inquiry into allegations which had been made by Mr Al Fayed against The Right Hon Michael Howard MP." In March this year the committee dismissed Mr Al Fayed's allegations that Mr Howard had accepted payments of between £1 million and £1.5 million to launch the investigation.

Mr Rowland is seeking damages and an order for "delivery up" of any of his goods still in Mr Al Fayed's possession, or payment of their equivalent value and damages for conversion or trespass of his goods.

Harrods has categorically denied the allegations. Michael Rogers, legal director of



Tiny Rowland, left, and Mohamed Al Fayed seemingly made up their differences in October 1993 when they shook hands in the Harrods food hall.

the store, said: "In view of the civil proceedings which exist between Mr Al Fayed and Mr Rowland, it is inappropriate and wrong to comment in detail. However, the allegations are categorically denied. We are satisfied that we will be able to prove in court that they are false and malicious."

The break-in was first alleged last month when Neil Hamilton, who was accused of taking cash for Parliamentary

questions from Mr Al Fayed, gave evidence on oath to the Standards and Privileges Committee. Tory MPs on the committee refused to uphold the findings of the Parliamentary Commissioner that Mr Hamilton had taken the money because they were denied a chance to cross-examine Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Rowland claims that early in December 1995, shortly before the break-in, the

security box contained various personal documents, audio tapes, a gold cigarette case, six or seven uncut rubies, 15 to 20 cut emeralds, three or four original Tanzanite stones, between six and eight rare Tibetan silver coins, and a rare Tibetan stamp. The emeralds were from a set of 25 Mr Rowland said he took from his mine in southern Rhodesia in 1960 to cut and pass on to the Queen Mother as a gift. Six

were said to have been given to her after Mr Rowland had a gold box made at Garrard, the crown jewellers.

The other people named in the writs are Colin Dalman, manager of the safe deposit boxes; John Macnamara of Beckenham, southeast London, who was then a director of security for a Harrods subsidiary; John Allen, a senior security manager of Caterham, Surrey; Mark

Griffiths, who was Mr Al Fayed's assistant; and his bodyguard, Paul Handley-Greaves.

The antipathy between Mr Al Fayed and Mr Rowland dates back to the 1980s, when Mr Rowland lost the battle for control of House of Fraser to Mr Al Fayed. However, in 1993, the two shook hands in the store's food hall after apparently ending their conflict.

Dixons

SAVE UP TO £50
ON PHONES

SAVE
£10
200 MINUTES
FREE
BT TalkTime®

**BT DIVERSE 1010
DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE**
● Up to 360 minutes talktime/40 hours standby time.
● Paging facility between handsets.
● 10 number memory.
● Add up to 5 additional handsets.
● GAP compatible - this means that the handset is interchangeable with other GAP compatible base stations regardless of the manufacturer.
Was £199.99. £179.99.

Dixons Deal
£159.99

**BT FREESTYLE 800
CORDLESS PHONE**
● Base to handset pairing facility.
● 10 number memory.
● Up to 100 metres range.
● Last number redial.
● Battery low warning.
Was £69.99.

Dixons Deal
£59.99

**LAZERBUILT
SPOTLIGHT
FLASHING PHONE**
● Last number redial.
● 10 number memory.
● Lights up when it rings.
Was £19.99.

Dixons Deal
£18.99

**BT DIVERSE 1010
TELEPHONE**
● 10 two-touch memories.
● Liquid Crystal Display.
● Visual ring indicator.
● Last number redial.
● Recall Button.
£17.99

**BT RESPONSE 8
ANSWERING MACHINE**
● Remote access - so you can collect your messages wherever you are.
● 15 minutes record time.
● Message indicator.
£29.99

**BT DIVERSE 1010
DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE**
● Fully digital - no need for tapes.
● Message time/date stamp.
● Remote access facility.
£29.99

**BT DIVERSE 1010
CORDLESS PHONE**
● 9 number memory.
● Visual ring indicator.
● Paging facility between base and handset.
£39.99

**BT FREESTYLE 1000
CORDLESS PHONE WITH
DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE**
● Intercom facility between base and handset.
Was £199.99. £169.99.

**BT FREESTYLE 1620
CORDLESS PHONE WITH DIGITAL
ANSWERING MACHINE**
● Intercom between base and handset.
● 10 number memory.
Was £249.99. £129.99.

**HAGENUK HOMEHANDY
DIGITAL CORDLESS PHONE**
● Digitally Enhanced Cordless Technology for excellent call quality.
● Up to 300 metres range.
● GAP compatible.
Was £139.99. £129.99.

PRICE CHECK
Every week we check the prices of hundreds of products in the national press to make sure that Dixons Price Check prices can't be beaten.

3 WAYS TO BUY
300 STORES NATIONWIDE
WWW.DIXONS.CO.UK
24 HOUR ORDER HOTLINE
08000 68 28 68

Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

* Call credited to your next available BT phone bill at Standard Local Weekend Rate. BT residential lines only. Offer by redemption. See in-store leaflet for details. If you find the same product cheaper locally please let us know immediately, we will be pleased to refund the difference. Just notify us within 7 days of purchase. The product must be new, complete and available for immediate delivery. Mail order prices excluded.

Lawrence letters tell of frustration over novel

By JOHN VINCENT

A REVEALING archive of letters by D.H. Lawrence relating to his difficulties in publishing *Lady Chatterley's Lover* has surfaced in London 67 years after his death.

The letters are being sold at Sotheby's next Thursday by the estate of his close friend, the late Juliette Huxley, Swiss wife of the renowned biologist and zoologist Sir Julian Huxley, brother of the novelist Aldous. They are expected to fetch up to £27,000.

In one letter to Juliette he writes: "I laugh at you when you say, 'What if Anthony [the Huxleys' son] were 16, and read this novel! He'd be too bored at 16; but at 20 of course he should read it."

"Was your mind a sexual blank at 16? is anybody's? and what ails the mind in that respect is that it has nothing to go on, grinds away in abstraction. So I laugh at you and go on laughing... For absurd-



Lawrence: "People in England make me mad"

ities I laugh at everybody, including myself. But at the essential person I don't laugh. And of course, you ought to know it, and not have these silly misgivings."

On the difficulties of having the sexually explicit *Lady Chatterley* published, he writes: "I've been having a tussle with my novel publishers, agent etc in London hold-

ing up hands of pious horror... and trying to make me feel disastrously in the wrong."

In another 1928 letter he writes: "People in England make me so mad. What with one thing and another - especially Lady C - that I feel I'd be downright ill if I saw those dirty cliffs of Dover just now." Frustrated by the confiscation of copies of the book, Lawrence says: "I want to make a row: can't sit down to it. All too exasperating... I long to get away from everything."

In an earlier letter he writes, "Lady Chatterley is being printed by a little printer in Florence, in an old little shop where nobody understands a word of English, not even those basic foundation-words... Ah, teach them to your mother, it's never too late to learn."

The novel was not published in Britain in its unpurgated form until 1961, after a celebrated obscenity trial.

BBC Presents

A box of delights

THE BEST FOR CHRISTMAS

The Hobbit and War and Peace - beautifully boxed classic listening.

The perfect gift.

Available from all good retailers

BBC

SAVE
AROUND
ON YOUR
ENERGY BILLS
WITH
BRITISH GAS.

British Gas
Home

Currys

NEW THIS WEEK

BUY NOW PAY LATER

OR
INTEREST FREE OPTION*
ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £200

SAVE UP TO £100
ON A HUGE RANGE OF TOP BRAND PRODUCTS

FREE CD STORAGE
With all Hi-Fi systems over £200. Ask for details.

SAVE A TOTAL OF £100

aiwa

FREE TV
Model MATSUI 14V1R. When you buy an AIWA ZD4500. Ask for details.

ADVANCED FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Multiplay - plays up to 5 CDs.
- 85 watts (RMS) per channel.
- 3 mode Dolby Pro-Logic.
- Dolby 'B' NR.
- Full logic cassette deck.
- 15 band spectrum analyser.

AIWA
Dolby Pro-Logic CD Hi-Fi with Turntable
Model ZD4500.
Was £849.99.
In-store Price £799.99.
BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER

VOUCHER PRICE
£749.99

AIWA
CD Micro Hi-Fi
Model LK111B.
Was £149.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£149.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
Ultra-Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
Model LK330.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£179.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

AIWA
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

THIS WEEK! **EXTRA VOUCHER SAVINGS** **PLUS FREE CD STORAGE**
With all Hi-Fi systems over £200 and Hi-Fi separates purchases over £100. Choose from Woodstock Wine 90 (holds up to 90 CDs) or Woodstock Bookcase (holds up to 28 Video cassettes). Ask for details.

FREE PERSONAL HI-FI
With selected SONY Hi-Fi. *By redemption. Ask for details.

SONY

CD Mini Hi-Fi
Multiplay - plays up to 3 CDs.
100 watts (RMS) per channel.
DJ mix functions. Model MHC200.
Was £349.99. Was £379.99.
FREE SONY DISC MAN PERSONAL HI-FI

SONY SALE PRICE
£349.99

SAVE £100

SONY
Ultra-Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
Model MHC200.
Was £159.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£159.99**

SONY
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model MHC200.
Was £199.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£199.99**

SONY
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model MHC200.
Was £199.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£199.99**

JVC **PIONEER**

FREE CD STORAGE
With all Hi-Fi systems over £200. Ask for details.

JVC
Ultra-Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
Model LK330.
Was £249.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

PIONEER
CD Mini Hi-Fi
Model NSX-570.
Was £299.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

Technics **SHARP**

FREE CD STORAGE
With all Hi-Fi systems over £200. Ask for details.

Technics
Ultra-Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
Model LK330.
Was £399.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£399.99**

SHARP
Ultra-Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi
Model LK330.
Was £129.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£129.99**

YAMAHA

FREE CD STORAGE
With all Hi-Fi systems over £100. Ask for details.

YAMAHA
Dolby Pro-Logic Amplifier
Model DSPA502.
Was £249.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£249.99**

YAMAHA
Dolby Pro-Logic Amplifier
Model DSPA502.
Was £329.99.
CURRYS PRICE **£329.99**

**BIGGER STORES
EVEN MORE CHOICE**

Currys

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

Northwich • Lincoln
North Shields • Oldham
Grimsby • Chesterfield
Uddingston • Glasgow

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

PEACE OF MIND FOR YEARS TO COME
Up to 5 years expert service support when you buy a Mastercare Coverplan Service Agreement.
PLUS INTEREST FREE OPTION WHEN PURCHASED WITH ANY PRODUCT OVER £100. Ask in-store for details.

MASTERCARE
Coverplan

Only Currys bring you all this

NEARLY 24 HOURS DELIVERY & INSTALLATION
7 DAYS A WEEK.
On over 800 home appliances when you purchase before 4pm. 48 hour delivery available in parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland. You can even choose morning or afternoon delivery or take it home now. Ask in-store for full details.

INSTANT CREDIT
With Currys Premier Advantage Account you can take advantage of any credit offer in-store. Ask for details.

INDEPENDENT REVIEWS

AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SHOP
Repairs 7 days a week (same day wherever possible).

EXCLUSIVE MODELS & OFFERS
For exceptional value, exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.

PCRAM UPGRADES
Available in-store.

DIGITAL COMPATIBLE
All TV's Currys sell are compatible with future digital technology. Subject to the purchase of an additional digital decoder planned for launch during 1998.

COMBINED DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION
On all free-standing gas and electric cookers by CORGI registered engineers. (excludes Northern Ireland and selected Scottish stores).

PC HELP LINE 7 DAYS A WEEK
01442 551515. Calls cost 50p per minute.

SAME DAY SERVICE
For most large items if you phone before 10am Monday to Friday and live within 10 miles of a Currys store.

CURRYS DIRECT
For direct, doorstep delivery. Freephone 0500 304304 or fax 01442 551515 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun). Delivery charges from £3.25. Part of DSG Retail Ltd.

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS

For 20% deposit and paying for the deferred period indicated with the product. You can then repay the loan in full, interest free, or for 24 months at 25.5% from the date of the agreement. Example: £1000 product on 24 months Buy Now Pay Later, Cash Price £1000.00. 25.5% deposit £250.00. 24 monthly payments by direct debit of £114.74. Total amount payable £2794.40.

APR 25.5%

BUY NOW PAY UP TO 12 MONTHS LATER

مکان الکحل

Southern comfort gives men the best hopes of a long life

BY MARK HENDERSON

MEN living in Cambridge, Guildford and Woking can expect to live nearly seven years longer than those in parts of Manchester and Liverpool, researchers have found.

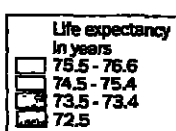
England's longest-lived women — from Bromley in southeast London and Dorset — have a life expectancy four years greater than in Manchester and Liverpool.

The study in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health* shows that the five poorest health authorities in Britain record the shortest male longevity. Life expectancy has risen much faster in wealthy parts of the country, while in inner London it has increased at a rate well below the national average.

The report's authors, Verna Soni Raleigh and Victor Kiri of the University of Surrey, suggest that more suicides, murders and accidental deaths, including drug overdoses, among male residents of deprived areas are to blame, along with higher rates of heart disease and lung cancer. They plan further research.

Men in Cambridge can expect to live to an average of 76 years and seven months, against a national average of 74 years one month. Men living in Manchester, England's poorest health authority, have a life expectancy of 69 years 11 months. Women live on average to 81 years five

Rank	Health authority	Life expectancy 1992-4 1994-6
1	Cambridge	76.6 74.4
2	West Surrey	76.4 74.2
3	East Surrey	76.2 73.4
4	Barnet	76.0 73.9
5	Dorset	75.9 73.8
6	Bromley	75.7 73.8
14	North Essex	75.6 73.5
46	South Cheshire	74.4 72.2
64	Leeds	73.9 71.2
69	Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster	73.5 71.3
76	Walsall	73.1 70.8
88	South Birmingham	72.6 70.8
95	St Helens and Knowsley	72.4 70.0
97	Sunderland	72.1 70.3
98	West Pennine	72.1 70.3
101	Camden and Islington	71.8 70.9
102	Southeast London	71.7 70.7
103	East London and the City	71.7 70.3
104	Liverpool	71.2 69.8
105	Manchester	69.9 69.2
	England (Average)	74.1 72.1



months in Bromley and Dorset, but to 76 years and eight months in Manchester. The national average is 79 years six months.

East and West Surrey, Barnet and Solihull also score well for male longevity, with Manchester, Liverpool, East London and the City, south-east London, and Camden and Islington at the foot of the table. Bromley and Dorset are followed by Cambridge, West Surrey and Exeter and North

Devon in the women's table, with Liverpool and Manchester joined by Sunderland, St Helens and Knowsley, and West Pennine at the bottom.

The five authorities with the lowest male life expectancy come lowest on the Jarman index of social deprivation, used by the NHS to allocate funds to GPs. Bromley, West Surrey, East Surrey and Solihull are all among the least deprived health authorities.

Dr Soni Raleigh said the report showed a growing gap between the quality and length of life of those living in wealthy and poor areas. "The life expectancy variations are widening," she said. "The most deprived areas today are still below what was recorded in the most affluent areas ten years ago."

She said women lived longer than men in all areas, but that the difference was most marked in poor health au-

thorities. "Men in deprived areas are much less well than women," she said.

Richard Smith, chief executive of the British Medical Association publishing group, said the figures corresponded to evidence that men living in poor communities were at highest risk of dying from accidents, suicide or violent crime, including drug overdoses.

"We are seeing external factors which have particular

effects in men," Dr Smith said. He added that the report indicated that health education messages were not getting through to the poorest, with poor diet and heavy smoking and drinking causing above-average levels of lung cancer and heart disease.

He said that squalid council housing was a major factor behind the figures, explaining the much larger number of winter deaths recorded in Britain.

What's safe to eat depends on where you are

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

DIETARY guidelines issued by official sources are confusing, contradictory and may often give bad advice, according to a pressure group dedicated to the pleasures of food and drink.

A study carried out by Arise, (Associates for Research into the Science of Enjoyment), looked at dietary guidelines across 21 countries and found huge variations in recommended food allowances.

While the World Health Organisation recommends a maximum of ten eggs a week, the Department of Health's Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy has recommended only one and the British Heart Foundation four.

Recommendations about alcohol vary equally widely. France tops the table, recommending a maximum intake for men of 60 grams a day (seven to eight glasses of wine), while Sweden puts the figure at less than one glass of wine a day. Britain comes in the middle of this table, at four glasses a day for men and three for women. Germany makes no recommendations at all.

Advice on salt reflects a similar confusion. Germany, at the top, suggests a maximum of 10 g a day while Sweden, at the bottom, suggests 2 g. Poland,

which considers salt a good thing, recommends a minimum of 1.44 g a day and sets no maximum. The British advice is a maximum of 6 g.

Arise is an international group of researchers united by the belief that food and drink should be enjoyed, not treated as a guilty indulgence. It is co-ordinated by Professor David Warburton of the University of Reading and makes no secret of the fact that it receives funding from food, drink and tobacco companies.

The new report concentrates on a range of food-stuffs that have been subject to dietary advice around the world.

Professor Warburton says: "Dietary guidelines claim to be based on scientific evidence which does not recognise international boundaries, yet a comparison of guidelines around the world shows them to be so different as to appear arbitrary."

The report does not address the question of beef, since this has not been the subject of dietary advice in most countries. But Professor Warburton said that an earlier survey by Arise had shown that 85 per cent of respondents were aware of the alleged risks of red meat and a quarter said they felt guilty about eating it.

Stroke risk slight for women on the Pill

BY IAN MURRAY

THREE women in 100,000 on the Pill have a very slightly increased risk of thrombosis compared with women not using oral contraceptives, according to research carried out in five European countries including Britain. That number would be reduced if doctors avoid prescribing the Pill to women with high blood pressure or other evidence of heart disease.

The research, published today in the *British Medical Journal*, involved women aged between 16 and 44, 220 of whom had suffered a stroke and 775 who had not. They had been on the Pill for at least three months.

The researchers found a risk of a stroke for women on the Pill but that is small because the illness affects so few in this age group.

Cell transplant to foetus developed

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TRANSPLANTS in the womb can cure common, inherited blood diseases. The relatively simple technique has to be carried out on foetuses aged between 12 and 15 weeks in order to prevent rejection.

The diseases are genetic disorders of the red blood cells that cause anaemia and painful crises when they cannot deliver oxygen properly to the body. Sufferers may require hundreds of blood transfusions throughout their lives.

The disorders, which include sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia, can be diagnosed at about the twelfth week of pregnancy but until now no treatment has been available. Researchers at Nottingham University who have been studying primitive blood-forming cells discovered some that can be used for transplantation into an affected foetus.

These "stem cells" have the capacity to produce red blood

cells almost exclusively and are therefore uniquely suitable for transplantation into a foetus affected with a disorder.

Ultrasound is used to guide a fine needle through the mother's abdomen and into the abdomen of the foetus, where a small volume of cells is injected. So far only 30 babies worldwide have been treated this way and there have been remarkable successes, although further research will be needed.

Rhodri Jones, who heads the research team, will describe the operation today to the British Society for Immunology congress in Brighton. "The foetus does not develop a fully competent immune system until after 15 weeks, so even a mismatched tissue can be transplanted without rejection occurring," he says. "Most importantly treatment can be offered before any damage has occurred."

Much more mileage.

25% off

Extra Lithium Ion battery
Telephony Modem PC Card
High Quality carry case
with any Armada 1500



QANTAS

It's the 50th Birthday of our UK-Australia route.

(Now we have 14 happy returns a week)

For more information call 0345 747 767

A Compaq Armada notebook is the ideal solution for business on the move. Now you can buy a Compaq Armada 1540D for just £1,449.00 (ex VAT) or £1,702.58 (inc VAT).

Highly competitive features include 150MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, 16MB RAM, 2.1GB Hard Disk, 12.1" STN screen, 20 x CD-ROM and Lithium Ion battery. And we've gone one step further with 25% off a pack of options including an extra Lithium Ion battery as well

as a Global 33.6 Telephony Modem PC Card and suitably tough and businesslike carry case. Call us for more advice and the latest Compaq offers to help your business grow.

You'll find we'll go the extra mile for you.

To go further with Compaq, call us today on:

0845 270 4747

Offer ends 31st December 1997.

Lines open 8am-5pm Mon to Fri, 10am-4pm Sat and Sun. Local call rate.

www.compaq.co.uk

COMPAQ

Options pack offer price is £259 inc VAT (£304.39 inc VAT). Normal price is £245 inc VAT (£294.39 inc VAT). Prices quoted are typical. Typical buying prices and are correct as of going to press. Price quoted refers to Armada 1540D. Offer ends December 31st 1997. The Intel logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation.

PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

BUSINESS CENTRE

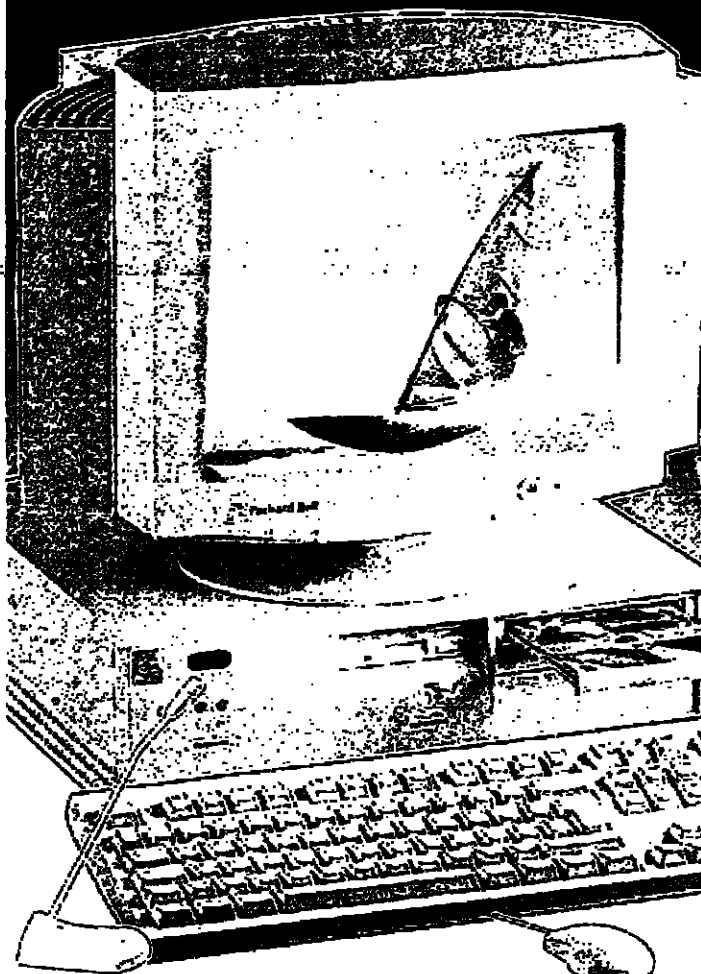


PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE



NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL SEPT 98

ON ALL PCs



FREE
OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE*
ON ALL
PACKARD BELL PCs
INCLUDING 25 TOP TITLES



PACKARD BELL
166MHz Pentium® Processor
with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 20 speed multimedia. 1Mb PCI graphics card.
FREE over £1000 worth of software.*
Was £1499. £1099. MODEL: 9029.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£999
SAVE £200

UNBEATABLE SERVICE

FROM BRITAIN'S BIGGEST COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

WE'LL INSTALL YOUR NEW PC AND GET YOU GOING



YOUR NEW PC CAN BE INSTALLED AND SET UP IN YOUR HOME OR OFFICE BY ONE OF OUR TRAINED PROFESSIONALS. We'll check your PC is correctly set up and working and we'll demonstrate the basic functions of your new PC for you.

ALL PCs WE SELL ARE GUARANTEED YEAR 2000 COMPLIANT
BRITISH STANDARD PD2000-2

LOWEST EVER PRICES
PCs FROM ONLY **£699**



ACER
166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 1.6Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia. 33.6Kbps data/fax modem.
Was £999. MODEL: Acros 5166.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£899
SAVE £100



IBM
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2.1Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 24 speed multimedia. 2Mb 3D graphics card. 33.6Kbps data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor.
MODEL: Aptiva E31.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£1099
SAVE £350

CTX
166+ Cytel Processor.
8Mb RAM. 1.7Gb hard disk.
512k cache memory.
PCI graphics card. 16 speed multimedia with stereo speakers. 14" monitor.
Was £799. MODEL: LCM166+.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£699
SAVE £100

HEWLETT PACKARD
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia. 33.6Kbps data/fax modem. MODEL: Pavilion 3130.

NEW
£1199

COMPAQ
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with 3D. Virtual Theatre & Dolby Digital Surround Sound.
Up to £1000 worth of software.*
Was £1399. MODEL: Presario 4506.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£1399
SAVE £200

VIGLEN MICROSOFT
233MHz Intel Pentium® II Processor with MMX™ Technology.
32Mb SDRAM. 4.3Gb hard disk. 512k cache memory. 24 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 33.6Kbps data/fax modem. 15" monitor. Microsoft Natural Keyboard.
Was £2499. MODEL: Home Pro P11 233.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£2099
SAVE £400

HEWLETT PACKARD
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
32Mb RAM. 2.5Gb hard disk. 24 speed multimedia. 2Mb ATI Rage II 3D Graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. Over 30 top software titles.
Was £1499. MODEL: Pavilion 8110.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£1399
SAVE £100

HEWLETT PACKARD
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
32Mb RAM. 2.5Gb hard disk. 24 speed multimedia. 2Mb ATI Rage II 3D Graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. Over 30 top software titles.
Was £1499. MODEL: Pavilion 8110.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£1399
SAVE £100

HEWLETT PACKARD
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
32Mb RAM. 2.5Gb hard disk. 24 speed multimedia. 2Mb ATI Rage II 3D Graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. Over 30 top software titles.
Was £1499. MODEL: Pavilion 8110.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£1399
SAVE £100

HEWLETT PACKARD
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
32Mb RAM. 2.5Gb hard disk. 24 speed multimedia. 2Mb ATI Rage II 3D Graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. Over 30 top software titles.
Was £1499. MODEL: Pavilion 8110.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£1399
SAVE £100

HEWLETT PACKARD
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
32Mb RAM. 2.5Gb hard disk. 24 speed multimedia. 2Mb ATI Rage II 3D Graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. Over 30 top software titles.
Was £1499. MODEL: Pavilion 8110.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£1399
SAVE £100

HEWLETT PACKARD
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
32Mb RAM. 2.5Gb hard disk. 24 speed multimedia. 2Mb ATI Rage II 3D Graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. Over 30 top software titles.
Was £1499. MODEL: Pavilion 8110.

LOWEST EVER PRICE
INC VAT
£1399
SAVE £100

FREE PRINTER
ON SELECTED PCs



PACKARD BELL
166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 20 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE
OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE!
INC VAT
£1299



APRICOT
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2.1Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia. 33.6Kbps data/fax/voice modem. 14" monitor. MODEL: MS540 F200.

FREE
12 MONTHS UNLIMITED INTERNET ACCESS!
INC VAT
£1299

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1399

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

PACKARD BELL
200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256k cache memory. 16 speed multimedia with sub-woofer. 2Mb graphics card. 56k data/fax modem with speakerphone. 14" monitor. MODEL: Pulsar 16.

FREE PRINTER
INC VAT
£1449

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE

ABERDEEN
BIRMINGHAM
JUNCTION 9 OFF M6
BRISTOL
CANTERBURY
CARDIFF

COLCHESTER
COVENTRY
DUNDEE
DONCASTER
EAST KILBRIDE

GATESHEAD
GLASGOW
HUDDERSFIELD
HULL
LEEDS

LIVERPOOL
MANCHESTER
MERRY HILL/ODLEY
NORTH SHIELDS
NORTHAMPTON

NOTTINGHAM
PETERBOROUGH
PLYMOUTH
POOLE
PORTSMOUTH
PRESTON

SHEFFIELD
SLOUGH
SOUTHAMPTON
SPRINGFIELD
STOCKPORT
STOKE

LONDON AREA
BRENTFORD
CRYSTAL
ENFIELD

GUILDFORD
LAKESIDE
SANDHURST

CANTERBURY
OPENS 9am
THIS SATURDAY

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

EDUCATION BILL 13

Central powers will be key to long-term school reform

By any yardstick, the Bill is the most ambitious recasting of state education since 1988, says John O'Leary

PARENTS responded in unprecedented numbers when the Government published its education White Paper this summer. Almost half of the 6,000 submissions were from individuals. Almost all of them concerned about standards.

Few of the respondents will see an immediate change in their children's schools as a result of yesterday's School Standards Bill, for all of its 125 clauses. But the legislation could change the shape of state education in the longer term.

David Blunkett, the Education

and Employment Secretary, freely admitted yesterday that the Bill is a centralising measure, designed to give ministers the levers of power over state schools that his predecessors have lacked.

Although intervention is still to be "in inverse proportion to success", schools that are deemed to be coasting, as well as those that are failing, will attract the attention of their local authority or even central

government. The whiff of central planning will send shivers through free marketeers and supporters of grant-maintained schools. Even the education action zones, which are to be testbeds of innovation in areas of social disadvantage and educational failure, carry echoes of the 1960s, when the more limited Education Priority Areas were the chosen panaceas.

Whether the Bill amounts to the

"historic settlement" to replace the 1944 Education Act claimed by Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, will depend on how the new powers are exercised.

The action zones, for example, will cover only a tiny fraction of England but their influence could be enormous if freeing schools from the national curriculum and altering teachers' pay and conditions produce better results. In the short

term, outside grant-maintained schools, the requirement for parents to sign home-school agreements and the use of detailed targets to monitor schools' performance will be the most obvious changes on the ground. Most grammar schools should have little to fear from ballots that can only be called by 20 per cent of parents at feeder primary schools.

The 125 clauses of the Bill contain

many overdue changes, such as the creation of a stronger role for parents and a more manageable system to get incompetent teachers out of the classroom. By any yardstick, it is the most ambitious recasting of state education since 1988.

Almost all the question marks surround the way in which local education authorities respond to what Mr Blunkett calls their "new job description" as the guardians of

standards. If they use their new powers to reassert a degree of control, which failed in the 1960s and 1970s, the Bill can only be a step back in the Government's education crusade. Although ministers can intervene, that would be a course of last resort.

Mr Blunkett acknowledged that improvement can come only from within schools. He must be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater in trying to deliver the Government's promise of much-needed educational progress.

Action zones and 'superheads' to tackle failure

EDUCATION action zones run by private companies and "superheads" paid up to £100,000 a year could be the testbeds for a deregulated state education system, ministers said yesterday as they launched the biggest schools reform for almost a decade.

An initial 25 action zones, covering areas of social disadvantage and educational underperformance, will each receive extra funding of £500,000 and have priority in a range of government initiatives. Schools will be able to opt out of the national curriculum and agreements on teachers' pay and conditions.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said clusters of not more than 20 schools would spawn fresh ideas and flexible approaches to education. "No doubt experience in education action zones will have implications for the education service as a whole."

The initiative marked a further stage in the Government's move away from political and educational dogma. Bids to run action zones will be accepted from private companies, community groups and consortiums of schools acting without the approval of their local authority, as well as from the authorities themselves.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, said the zones might form the basis for "a new deal for the teaching profession" based on more flexible working arrange-

John O'Leary reports on the School Standards Bill and 'a new deal for teachers'

ments. "They will be pilots to see what works and what does not," he said.

The 221-page School Standards Bill puts into effect a range of measures. They include the abolition of grant-maintained schools, which will be given the option of becoming "foundation schools" with local authority representation on their governing bodies and shared responsibility for admissions policies.

Comprehensive schools will be barred from selecting part of their intake on academic ability but grammar schools will survive unless parents from their feeder primary schools vote to end selection.

Church schools, which resisted the Government's original proposals, will become "aided schools", while local authority schools will be renamed "community schools". Local authorities will be given new powers to monitor standards, agreeing annual targets for all state schools in their area and overseeing admissions policies. The Gov-

ernment will acquire new powers to take over "failing" local authorities and will be able to order them to contract out services that are considered inadequate. The authorities, which will include parental representatives for the first time, will be required to delegate more money to schools in the new year.

The legislation also gives ministers power to close failing schools, reopening them under a new name and with new leadership to give them a "fresh start". Incompetent teachers in all state schools will be subject to new, faster dismissal procedures.

Local authorities will be expected to issue warning notices to schools found to be underperforming, even if their results appear respectable. Those which do not improve could be taken over by the authority, which could appoint additional governors.

The Liberal Democrats said the plans for education action zones were exciting but said ministers should go a step further and impose them in the place of failing local education authorities.

Head teachers agreed action zones were an "exciting idea" for a few failing schools. But David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, added: "The vast majority of the schools which will be in education action zones... need support, not fancy remedies such as 'superheads' or talking shops disguised as forums."



Peter Clark, the head who was drafted in to save the Ridings School in Halifax. It needs a "light touch", he said

Changes will not be a 'quick fix'

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SUCCESSFUL head teachers will be able to become leaders of Education Action Zones with control of up to 20 schools and a salary of £100,000.

These "superheads" would be expected to work closely with all the head teachers in the zone and direct the annual budget of up to £500,000.

Local education authorities or a local business will also be able to nominate the director of the zone, who would effectively replace the council chief education officer. The director will still be expected to work closely with the local authority.

But he or she will be directed by groups on the zone forum, which could include businesses, faith groups, community organisations and the Training and Enterprise Council.

Leading head teachers said yesterday that "superheads" should not be seen as a quick fix for failing schools but would have to work on long-term development.

William Atkinson, the head who helped to rescue Phoenix High School in West London from failure, said: "We want people who roll up their sleeves and get stuck in, with buckets of energy and clear vision. If we are not careful it could be a bureaucratic nightmare with the various partners not working in cohesion

but at war with each other."

Peter Clark, who was drafted in to rescue The Ridings School in Halifax while staying on as head at his own school, Raistrick High, said the idea of "superheads" could work provided they acted as "light-touch" consultants.

Dr Peter Mason, who was recently appointed head of the four Stamford independent schools in Lincolnshire, said: "If you are going to influence a dozen senior staff across several schools so they are going to raise the morale of the other staff, it is going to require a tremendous amount of energy and commitment and it is not going to happen overnight."

Inner-city primary is helped by accountant

By DAVID CHARTER

THE head of an inner-city primary school praised by inspectors raised standards with the help of her mentor, a senior partner in a firm of accountants.

Children and staff at Winton primary in King's Cross, London, are paired with local companies in a way the Government wants to encourage through Education Action Zones. Winton is in the borough of Islington, which is likely to be considered for action-zone status.

Three quarters of the children receive free school meals because they come from low-income families and fewer than half speak English when they arrive. The school was praised as "a stimulating place where children respond in an excellent way".

Jane Fulford, the head teacher, said the school benefited from its own links with local businesses and would welcome extra freedom to concentrate on key areas which the zone system would allow. It had been able to start raising standards using money from various funds to give children with special needs individual attention, another aim of action zones.

"My mentor, a senior partner at KPMG, has been fantastic," Mrs Fulford said. "We talk through all the challenges facing a head, like school development planning, appraising staff and budgeting. Our appraisal system has been made much more effective since I have looked at the business approach."

Win **£100,000** in the **Barclaycard** prize draw.

Complete as many entry forms as you like.

don't put it off put it on

BARCLAYCARD

Open to Barclaycard cardholders only. No purchase necessary. See Conditions of Entry for details. Promotion starts 24.12.97. For further details of Barclaycard please contact your local Barclaycard branch. Barclaycard is a registered trademark of Barclaycard Bank Ltd. Barclaycard Bank Ltd is a subsidiary of Barclaycard Bank Ltd. Barclaycard Bank Ltd is a subsidiary of Barclaycard Bank Ltd.

The gift of the gab.

£64.99 Freestyle 80 cordless telephone

£149.99 Swatch DECT cordless telephone

£109.99 cordless telephone answering machine

BT Shop

Free 0800 400 804

*Providing you bring back your BT Shop receipt within 14 days, up to and including 10th January 1998 plus details of the other shop's price. The BT Shop Price Promise applies to all products at BT Shops except mobile phones, pagers, satellite systems, multimedia PCs or telephone lines and associated services. The other retailer's price must be for a new product immediately available at full price at that store.

The media under surveillance

Valerie Elliott visits the government unit that is keeping a 24-hour watch on the nation's news output

ALL new Whitehall press officers are to experience the hothouse of government by working for a period at the new media monitoring unit.

The unit opened this week, offering ministers and government departments a 24-hour run-down of breaking news and a digest of the newspapers. This fast service aims to enable departments to rebut rogue stories and to provide swift briefings for ministers, many of whom had complained that the Government press service was not as efficient as the Labour Party operation at Millbank.

In a small office on the eighth floor of the Central Office of Information building near Waterloo station, about eight staff are providing a 24-hour service by working a three-shift system. It may not be the most glamorous job in Whitehall, but they say that they enjoy the buzz of "being first with the news".

The staff are monitoring a bank of ten television screens showing BBC1, BBC2, ITV,

Channel 4, Channel 5, News 24 hours, CNN, Sky, Ceefax and Teletext. Each channel is being recorded on video tapes that will be stored for two weeks before being reused. Radio news bulletins and news and current affairs programmes such as Radio 4's *Today* and *The World At One* are also recorded.

An overnight review of papers is faxed to each departmental head of information by eam. Mike Grannatt, head of the Government Information and Communications Services, said that it had already enabled him to correct early morning radio and television bulletins.

A team of volunteers has been recruited to staff the unit for a pilot three-month period. Permanent staff are expected to be recruited in February.

After only four days in operation the unit has yet to prove its worth. The No 10 press office has praised the overnight review of the newspapers, but some press officers complain that the unit's summaries of news broadcasts are too long. But on advantage is that departmental press officers no longer need remain glued to their televisions and radios at lunchtime. The digest of lunchtime bulletins



On guard: a member of the unit's staff monitoring the bank of television screens

aries of news broadcasts are too long. But on advantage is that departmental press officers no longer need remain glued to their televisions and radios at lunchtime. The digest of lunchtime bulletins

was faxed to each department at 1.45pm yesterday. Ministers are also booking specific services. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was in Kyoto for the environmental summit yesterday, asked for any references to the summit that had appeared on the Internet. As he is to appear on *Breakfast with Frost* this Sunday, he also asked for a fax to Japan on Saturday night with a digest of

day, asked for any references to the summit that had appeared on the Internet. As he is to appear on *Breakfast with Frost* this Sunday, he also asked for a fax to Japan on Saturday night with a digest of

Sunday newspaper stories. The Department of Health asked yesterday for details of tobacco sponsorship stories so that it could brief Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, who was at talks in Brussels.

The unit's staff were pleased yesterday to learn about the resignation of Lord Chadlington, chairman of the Royal Opera Board, before the Department of Culture press office. The unit also informed the Transport Department about the Virgin train fire at Watford that led to the line to London Euston being closed.

But it is clear that the news digests must be used swiftly by departments to correct any inaccuracies. There was some dismay, for example, that reports that 750,000 savers would lose tax relief under the new individual savings accounts scheme were not picked up earlier. The Government believes that the real number of savers who will be worse off will be 300,000.

John O'Sullivan, a government press officer for 30 years, is on secondment from the Crown Prosecution Service as head of the unit. His motto is "If in doubt, shout". Government press officers and civil servants can expect the late-night call, and it might not be from a reporter.

Ministers are succumbing to a rash of reviews

THE Government cannot see a problem without setting up a review. Getting on for a hundred inquiries, reviews and task forces have been created since the election — and yesterday we had the first royal commission, on long-term care, with the promise also of an inquiry into the causes of BSE. This follows the announcement on Monday of a commission on the voting system under Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, and the broadening a few weeks ago of the remit of the Neill, formerly the Nolan, committee to cover the whole area of political funding. Government by review, complain the critics, while Whitehall cynics argue that ministers only set up inquiries when they know what will be recommended.

Inquiries do serve a purpose, or rather several purposes. Typically, they are set up as a way out of a pressing political problem, but they often lead to unforeseen consequences. The Nolan committee was hurriedly created by John Major in October 1994 after a wave of "cash-for-questions" allegations as a way of showing that public standards in Britain were generally high. Few Tories then foresaw how radical its proposals would be, but the committee had an authority which could not be challenged.

Similarly, during the Ecclestone affair, Tony Blair invoked the committee as a solution to everything to do with party funding. But in his haste new problems have been created. The Government has already promised action — on banning foreign donations and requiring disclosure of the names of donors of above £5,000 — which prejudices the Neill committee's work. Ministers are also considering regional spending limits in the European elections and for the contest to become London's mayor which cut across the committee's work.

The voting commission is a more calculated political exercise. It fulfills a pledge to the Liberal Democrats and defers a tricky decision which Mr Blair is not yet ready to take. It is not, however, just a delaying tactic. Although Lord Jenkins and his hard-headed group are unlikely to suggest anything unacceptable to Mr Blair, they still have a wide choice of possible systems — and their recommendation may form the basis of a new consensus.

The Government mainly uses reviews to establish the widest basis of support for controversial changes. Such inquiries seldom discover new facts: there is usually a vast weight of existing evidence. Their brief is to come up with practical options out of the many available. The Dearing inquiry on student and university finance was set up by Gillian Shephard with the backing of her then shadow David Blunkett to take the issue out of pre-election politics and to produce a long-term answer. That has made it less hard for Mr Blunkett to push through his proposals on student fees.

Royal Commissions went out of fashion during the Thatcher years. She and her advisers thought they knew the answers and did not

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

want the type of time-wasting commissions which Harold Wilson liked — though Britain would have been better-off if some of the proposals (for example, of the Salmon commission on standards of conduct in public life) had been implemented. But the new one on long-term care has been asked to report within 12 months and may provide the authority of the good and the great for inevitably tricky and costly solutions.

The remit of the proposed BSE inquiry is still unclear. No one wants a repeat of the sprawling Scott investigation. Is the aim of any inquiry to be primarily historical — identifying what went wrong, why and when? There are dangers in trying to hunt for the guilty. There is also the possibility of compensation for victims of CJD, and therefore questions of immunity.

In the end, however much reviews and inquiries may shape, and take forward, the public debate on tricky issues, they are no substitute for politicians themselves taking tough decisions.

PETER RIDDELL

Electric offers for Christmas

December offer of the month.

SAVE £45

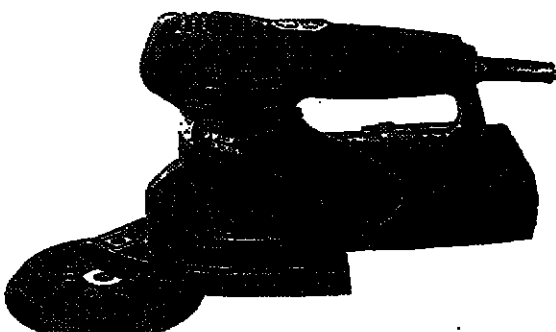
Black & Decker KC1252CB
12V variable speed 2 gear
Cordless Drill with
2 detachable battery packs
and 3 hour charger.
(Battery packs £49.99 each
when purchased separately.)

Was £124.99
Now £79.99



SAVE £5

Black & Decker KA220E
3 in 1 Multi-sander with FREE



Black & Decker KC9072K Cordless
Screwdriver kit including 12 assorted
screwbits and carry case
(retail price £29.99)

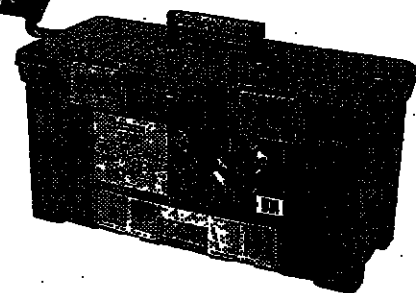
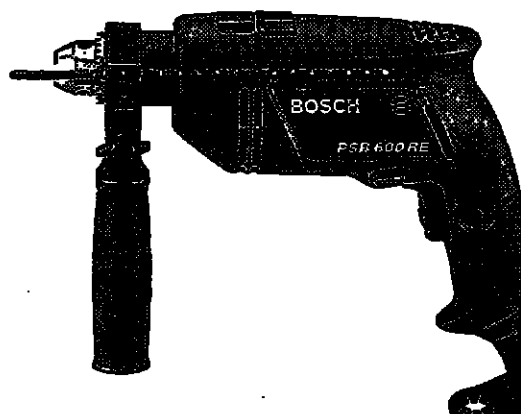
Was £69.99
Now £64.99



£64.95

Bosch PSB600RE
Hammer Drill with case.

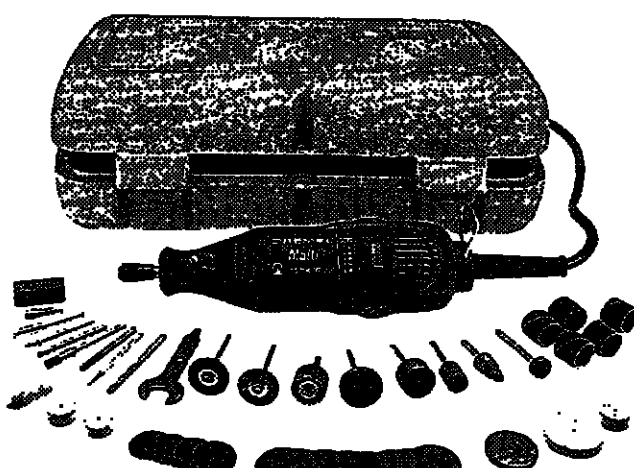
With FREE Do It All
large toolbox with tray drawer
(retail price £19.99)



SAVE £10

Dremel Multi-Purpose Power Tool 3950
with 40 accessories and storage case

Was £89.95
Now £79.95



DO IT ALL
LET'S DO UP BRITAIN!

DO IT ALL HELPLINE Free help and advice 7 days a week 0800 436 436

Offers subject to availability.

Bulgaria in Crisis

Appeal to Times Readers

LEFT TO FREEZE

Yordan, 1½, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.



No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

£28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

I enclose £_____ to save Bulgarian orphanage children. Cheques to The European Children's Trust. Or debit my Access/Visa/MA/ card

Card no. _____ Expiry date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone no. _____

Return to: Doreen Barron, (TB), Bulgaria Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST

KEB359, 64 Queen Street, LONDON, EC4B 4AR or call

01273 299399 NOW. Registered Charity No. 1048737

Please act NOW - winter is coming

FREE CONNECTION
180 MINUTES OF
FREE MONTHLY CALL



FREEPHONE 0800 6 3444

مكتبة الكحل

THE TIMES FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

OVERSEAS NEWS 17

Corporate wife wins \$20m in divorce

America is split over whether staying at home is a sacrifice, Bronwen Maddox reports

LORNA WENDT and her husband Gary were both claiming victory last night in a divorce case watched across America as a test of the value of the corporate wife. Mrs Wendt, 54, turned down \$10 million (£6 million) to fight for \$50 million, and got \$20 million.

The divorce suit brought an end to the Wendts' 31-year marriage was that legal rarity: a top-dollar case which went to trial rather than settlement. But the nation has also split over the question of whether, if a wife stays home, it is her sacrifice or his loss of a second income.

Despite Mr Wendt's vehement claims of victory, Wednesday's ruling by a Connecticut judge is widely seen as shattering a "glass ceiling" where divorced wives could expect to get only what they "needed", instead giving them what they have "earned".

The Wendt saga has struck chords nationally, partly because it is the tale of a couple who followed the American Dream from a small Midwest town to become millionaires. Mr Wendt, 55, is the head of GE Capital, which makes about a third of the profits of General Electric, the aero engines-toasters giant.

The couple were originally high-school sweethearts from Rio, a Wisconsin community of 700 people. He was a popular sports star and played the trombone in the band; Lorna, the daughter of a minister, played the oboe. When they married, they had just \$2,500. Mr Wendt went to

Harvard Business School, while Lorna worked as a music teacher, earning a "PFT" certificate — "putting hubby through" — from the Harvard Dean's wife.

Mr Wendt moved the family several times, to Houston, Atlanta, then Coral Gables, Florida, before settling in Stamford, Connecticut. According to Mrs Wendt, she raised their two daughters, now in their late twenties, and as the family moved, took charge of packing up and selling their houses and giving away their pets.

As Mr Wendt's star rose, she was hostess for black-tie dinners for 90 at their house, making small talk with impor-

tant foreign guests. She says that less than two weeks after she gave birth to the couple's first child, her husband's secretary called to say he wanted her to hold a dinner party for 12 that evening at their home.

Her former husband says this picture is a myth and that she refused to have parties at home except the company Christmas party. He spoke of his "dreadful unhappiness" at home, which led the couple to seek marriage counselling three times in the past decade.

Two years ago, when the marriage broke down, he says he offered his wife \$11 million, half his assets, then. She rejected it, forcing a public trial. In her view, the marriage was an "economic partnership" to which she contributed half. Her husband's view is that "I've worked hard. She didn't." He has also said: "Do feminists now want equality without effort? Is that the new equality?"

After this week's ruling, Mrs Wendt will get a package estimated at \$20 million. It includes two houses, and half the couple's cash and shares, half the dividends from her husband's GE shares, and \$252,000 a year in alimony. She will also keep two memberships to exclusive private clubs, and a Macy's department store credit card, giving

her a 45 per cent lifetime discount.

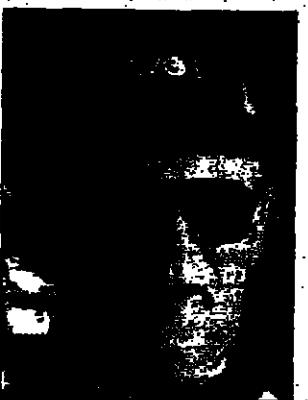
Most controversially, given the corporate fashion for locking in top staff with share options, she will also get more than a quarter of her former husband's future stock options and retirement bonus. Her husband contested this, saying that this money depended on his future hard work.

She claims victory on the ground that the award recognises her value. Her spending averaged \$120,000 a year for clothing, \$5,000 a month for travel and \$1,350 a month for make-up and hair.

The exact reasoning of Judge Kevin Tierney is not yet public; he has released only 25 pages of a 465-page opinion. Nor will the case set a legal precedent unless it goes to appeal. But it will still be studied because it appears to set aside time-honoured principles of divorce awards.

In Connecticut, like many other states, assets are subject to "equitable distribution", normally meaning a 50-50 split, but when tens of millions of dollars are involved, most judges rule that "enough is enough": anyone should be able to live on several million dollars.

Mrs Wendt now plans to develop her recently created Foundation for Equality in Marriage. Her former husband says he has "found true happiness" with Rosemarie Adams, a divorced 64-year-old grandmother. He plans to marry his new partner — provided that she signs a pre-nuptial agreement.



Gary Wendt rejected "equality without effort"



Lorna Wendt leaves court in Stamford, Connecticut, after the divorce hearing

Gamble cost the Getty Trust \$400m

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

ONE of the world's richest art endowments, the Getty Trust, has admitted losing nearly \$400 million (£240 million) in a single year because of a bad guess on the way the stock market would go.

Fearing a market plunge in the 1995-96 financial year, the fund's trustees invested heavily in complex stock-index options designed to pay off if share prices fell. When they roared ahead instead, the defence mechanism cost the trust \$397.2 million.

The revelation of this backfire in over-cautious investment tactics comes days before the opening of a vast new \$1 billion Getty museum and art institute on nearly 600 acres overlooking Los Angeles. The new Getty Center's original budget of \$360 million has ballooned over the ten years it has taken to design and build.

Combined with costly recent art-buying sprees and the investment losses announced in the Los Angeles Times yesterday, the huge construction project has eroded the trust's image of having limitless wealth.

Founded with the \$1.2 billion oil fortune left by J. Paul Getty on his death in 1976, the trust rode out successive bull markets in the 1980s and early 1990s to stand at over \$4 billion by mid-1995. Then John Whitehead, a trustee and former investment banker, advised "hedging" against a market crash.

The strategy was implemented by three Wall Street banks including one, Goldman Sachs and Co, at which Mr Whitehead had been co-chairman. When it failed it cost the trust a dollar for every dollar its portfolio gained during the 1995-96 market surge.

Mr Whitehead this week defended his tactics, likening them to buying a life insurance policy without actually wanting to die. But, when one of his successors was asked if such a tactic would be tried again, he said: "Not in my lifetime."

Disney chief's \$565m payday record

BY GILES WHITTELL

THE chairman of the Walt Disney Company has cashed in accumulated bonuses worth more than half a billion dollars — a landmark in American corporate history.

Breaking all records for the single biggest executive payday, Michael Eisner, a combative studio chief with a degree in English literature, sold a tranche of eight-year-old Disney stock options at an estimated profit of \$565 million (£353 million).

In an exquisite piece of understatement, Mr Eisner acknowledged through his press office that the deal "will undoubtedly provoke much discussion".

A similar transaction five years ago, in which he realised \$202 million of shares, triggered indignant comment about US boardroom earnings — not least from Disney theme park employees on little more than the minimum wage.

In the deal announced on Wednesday, Mr Eisner bought 7.3 million shares at heavily deflated prices, set in his contract in 1989, at less than \$20 per share, and sold 5.4 million of them at the day's market rate of \$95 a share.

Such deferred stock options have become a standard incentive in top executives' pay packages, since they can prove wildly profitable if the company performs well but worthless if it falters.

Mr Eisner's salary has been fixed at \$750,000 a year since he arrived at the company from Paramount Pictures. He is thought to have earned about \$1 billion while at Disney, and in addition has a stake in the company now worth around \$542 million.

Spread over the nine years during which they matured, the options sold on Wednesday amounted to a daily wage for Mr Eisner of around £100,000.

Congress blunder drives India to unwanted election

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

INDIA faces an exhausting, expensive and unwanted general election — the second in less than two years — after President Narayanan dissolved parliament yesterday. It will be a pointless poll, the consequence of a blunder that marks yet another low point in the state of politics.

The Congress party, which has governed India for most of its 50 years of independence, brought down the United Front coalition, believing it could lead a new multi-

party administration, pieced together from the old one. But almost no party would join — a sign of how low the reputation of Congress has sunk.

There have been three governments since the last elections 18 months ago, one of which lasted just 13 days, and there is no prospect that the new polls will produce anything less chaotic than those of May 1996. Congress, rarely treated to such grassroots contempt, is plainly incapable of getting anything like a majority in the Lok Sabha (lower house), ensuring India remains in the unfamiliar and unstable territory of

coalition politics. The rise of regional parties, based often on linguistic affinities, has been matched by a phenomenal increase in support for the hardline Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has blood on its hands from anti-Muslim riots. It also played a central role in the 1992 destruction of the 16th-century Babri mosque by Hindu fanatics in Ayodhya.

The polls will be held early next year, probably in February. Sitaram Kesri, the 83-year-old leader of Congress, almost single-handedly topped the Government on the pretext

that it included a Tamil party implicated in the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister. His miscalculation is one of the great political blunders of modern India.

He had hoped enough members of the 14-party United Front coalition would defect to him to form a new administration, but he underestimated how loathed Congress has become over its destructive bids for power.

The electorate will doubtless punish his party severely. The biggest beneficiary is likely to be the BJP, which is comparatively disciplined

and articulates a nationalist philosophy that appeals to many Hindus. But it includes extremist elements that threaten the fragile relationship between Hindus and India's 130 million Muslims.

All the prime ministerial candidates have blood or corruption on their hands, presenting India's 980 million people with an unsavoury selection. The political upheaval means the business of government is now on hold, with devastating consequences for the economy and, indirectly, the 450 million Indians who live in poverty.

Rwanda troops chase Hutu prison escapers

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

THE Rwandan Army said yesterday that it had engaged Hutu rebels in heavy fighting after they freed some 500 inmates of a prison in central Rwanda on Wednesday. Four police guards and six civilians died in the prison raid by 300 armed guerrillas.

It is not known how many died when the army struck back, but the death toll could be high. The Rwandan Patriotic Army, dominated by minority Tutsis, is gaining increasing notoriety for the brutality of its counter-insurgency operations. Hundreds of unarmed civilians, mostly Hutus, are being killed

every month in army swoops in the hills where rebels are believed to have their bases.

The escapes from the prison in central Gikoma province were members of the Hutu majority detained on suspicion of involvement in the 1994 genocide, which claimed the lives of at least half a million people.

This latest rebel attack points to a growing confidence on the part of Hutu extremists bent on overthrowing the largely Tutsi Government. Never before have they struck so deep into the interior of the country. Since they were routed by an invading Tutsi force

after the genocide, the rebels have largely confined their activities to the traditional Hutu stronghold of the northwest.

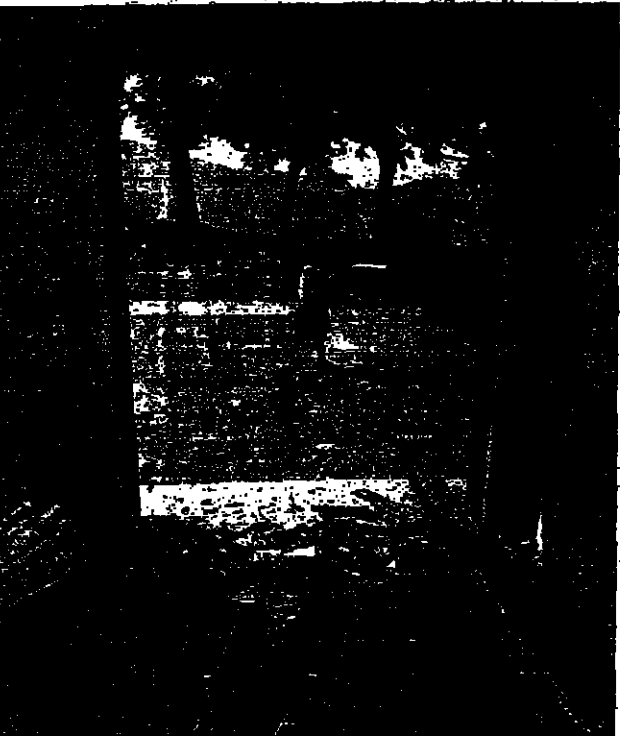
Wednesday's raid is the second assault on a detention centre this week. More than 100 prisoners were reported to have been freed in a rebel attack in northwestern Rwanda on Tuesday. Two weeks ago, some 300 people died when Hutu guerrillas took on government troops at a jail in Gisenyi in northwestern Rwanda. The army later said 88 prisoners had died in "crossfire" and that 93 inmates had escaped. The rebel death toll was put at 200.

Three and a half years after the genocide, Rwanda is still locked in a vicious cycle of murder and revenge. Hardly a day goes past without people dying violent deaths in the tiny central African nation.

The Government that came to power in 1994 hoped the Hutu extremists later known as Interahamwe had been dealt a fatal blow in the civil war that followed the genocide. Some were arrested but most fled to refugee camps in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo).

When the bulk of Rwandan Hutu refugees returned home late last year, so did many extremists. Still more returned from Congo this year, following the Rwandan-assisted overthrow of the late Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. Again, arrests were made, pushing the already crowded Rwandan prison population to 120,000.

But, as the frequency and intensity of rebel attacks increased, it is clear the Interahamwe are far from vanquished.



A Rwandan boy passes burn-out administration offices after a Hutu attack near Kigali yesterday

Red Planet was once wet planet, says Nasa

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

MARS was at one time more like the Earth than we thought, according to new analysis of data from the Pathfinder mission, Nasa said yesterday.

reports published in the journal Science. The red planet's "rounded pebbles and cobbles and the abundant sand-sized dust-sized particles... all appear consistent with a water-rich planet that may be more Earth-like than previously recognised", according to the journal.

craft adds that Mars may have had "a warmer and wetter past" than previously recognised, "in which liquid water was stable and the atmosphere was thicker". The report appears to confirm the first impressions of Nasa, which aimed the Mars Global Surveyor satellite at Mars in 1996, when it was thought to be a "dead planet".

Action

working with **HP** HEWLETT PACKARD

Over 9,000 brand leading I.T. products

EASY ORDERING

ORDER ONLINE!

SAVE £££££!
Order online for bigger discounts via OrderPoint our secure electronic commerce. Visit www.action.com

FREEPHONE 0800 333 333
Please quote D4045 when ordering
Order lines open:
Weekdays 08:00 to 18:30
Saturdays 09:00 to 13:00

The power of your desktop PC in the palm of your hand

from just **£369.00** + VAT **£433.20**

With our new HP 300 Series Palmtop PCs, you can now fit the multifunctionality of your desktop PC neatly into the palm of your hand. These new PCs run on Microsoft® Windows® CE, the standard operating system that has the same look and feel as Windows 95.

Small, but perfectly formed

MS Windows® CE lets you access your favourite desktop applications, even when your desk is miles away. When you return, just dock the handheld into the cradle and you have automatic connectivity to your desktop PC. You can then transfer MS Word and MS Excel files; back up or restore data; and synchronise your calendar, contacts and tasks with your favourite desktop personal information manager (PIM). If your printer has an infra-red port, you can print directly from your HP 300 Series Palmtop PC!

Plug and play

Simply plug in a fax/modem, and you can access e-mail™, send and receive faxes and even browse the Web. Expansion slots make it effortless to back up your data, communicate and add new applications. The ergonomically designed keyboard and stylus are comfortable and easy to use. Best of all, the WUX display design makes everything on your screen easy to read — just like on your desktop PC!

SAVE £70 ON RRP HP 320LX

Features and prices

Model	RAM	CPUs	MSDN	PRICE RRP	PRICE NEW
HP 300LX 2400	2MB	28.7-MHz	£68.00	£433.20	£363.20
HP 320LX 4MB	4MB	33-MHz	£62.00	£422.00	£350.00

*HP 320LX also includes: built-in lighting, CompaqFlash card slot, AC adapter, docking cradle, free fax software.

*Applications: Microsoft® Pocket Word, Pocket Excel, Pocket Internet Explorer, Information Manager (calendar, tasks, contacts), *Roxio (email application), *Calculator, *World Clock, *Communication applications (TTY/VF-100 emulation), *Remote networking (for connecting to remote access servers), *Software game.

Please quote code D4045 when ordering

Mothers grieve as Winnie denies killings

RELATIVES of some of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's alleged murder victims stormed out of hearings yesterday in which she denied any part in the disappearance and murder of their sons. Nelson Mandela's former wife spent hours denying any wrongdoing after eight days of testimony implicating her in a township reign of terror.

Caroline Sono, the mother of missing Soweto youth Lolo Sono—who, several witnesses said, was last seen alive, but badly beaten, with Mrs Mandela—demanded to know what had happened to her son. Walking out of hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Mrs Sono shouted: "She's the woman who murdered our children. I will not rest until I find my son's remains." Accompanied by Nomusa Tshabalala, the mother of Lolo's friend Siboniso, who also went missing when he sought out Lolo at Mrs Mandela's Soweto mansion in October 1988, she said that the hearings had been "a complete sham".

The "coach" of the so-called Mandela United Football Club, Jerry Richardson, said on Monday that he had helped to kill the two boys. Their bodies were dumped in a disused mine after their throats were cut on the orders of Mrs Mandela. They have never been found.

According to evidence read to the commission, Mrs Mandela's driver at the time of Lolo's disappearance, Michael Seakamela, was due to have told the inquiry that he also saw the youth with his employer before he vanished. But the driver disappeared on Monday after allegedly receiving a phone call from Mrs Mandela.

She described allegations that she had been present during the abduction and torture of four youths and several other murders as ludicrous, hallucinations, lunatic statements and fabrications, although many of the 43 witnesses said otherwise. Coquetish at the start of the



Archbishop Tutu wrings out an apology and admission that "things went wrong", reports Sam Kiley in Johannesburg

hearings, she offered a weak defence in the face of horrifying testimony. This came from senior African National Congress members of the South Africa's Government, witnesses and victims themselves, who alleged that she had ordered at least six killings and enthusiastically taken part in torture sessions in which she beat young men so hard that her whips broke.

By the end of the day only Archbishop Desmond Tutu,

ground after he had been abducted by the Mandela United Football Club in December 1988. Mrs Mandela was fined for the abduction of the youths in a 1991 trial but continued to insist yesterday she knew nothing about them, nor the dead Stormie. At least eight witnesses said earlier she had presided over the kidnapping and Mr Richardson confessed to having killed the boy on her orders.

Mrs Mandela said after the archbishop's tearful plea: "It is true, things went horribly wrong... I am deeply sorry." Only hours before the apology, Joyce Seipei, who sat through harrowing details of her son's death with her three-year-old daughter, had been threatened by members of Mrs Mandela's Women's League in the lavatories during a break at the hearing, reducing the woman to tears.

Archbishop Tutu condemned the intimidation. "It is disgraceful behaviour from persons who are mothers themselves—and it is also a criminal offence—towards a mother whose child was gruesomely killed. I condemn it in the strongest possible terms. If we have sufficient evidence, we will press criminal charges."

Mrs Mandela attempted to paint the commission as an arm of the ANC and suggested that she had been called to testify before the 50th party conference because senior ANC members wanted to block her bid to become its deputy president. The allegation was denied by Dr Alex Boraine, a commission member, who reminded Mrs Mandela that it was she who had called for a public hearing while the commission would have preferred to hear her case behind closed doors.

"I speak to you as someone who loves you very deeply, who loves your family deeply"

chairman of the commission, was able to extract a mild apology after a tearful address to Mrs Mandela in which he begged her to acknowledge that "things went wrong" in the late 1980s.

"I speak to you as someone who loves you very deeply, who loves your family very deeply. I wanted to say to you, let us have a public meeting where you could say, 'Things went wrong and I don't know why they went wrong.'"

"There are many out there who would want to embrace you if you were able to say something went wrong... and say I'm sorry for my part in it," said the archbishop at the end of a day heavy with grief over her alleged victims.

The hearings inevitably focused on the death of Stormie Moeketsi Seipei, whose mutilated body was found on waste



Winnie Mandela embraces Joyce Seipei, mother of the murdered teenage activist Stormie, at the truth commission hearing yesterday

Tutu treads softly over wounds of past

South Africa's favourite uncle puts the emphasis on reconciliation at truth hearings, Sam Kiley writes

JUST as advocate Sanjay Makanje had Winnie Madikizela-Mandela on the ropes and on the verge of admitting that her alibi in the murder of Stormie Moeketsi Seipei was a lie, yesterday's hearings at South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission went from Perry Mason to Oprah Winfrey.

With her claim to have been out of town the day after Stormie's abduction proved to be untrue, Mrs Mandela was gasping for an answer when she was saved by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. South Africa's favourite uncle, and chairman of the commission, takes the "reconciliation" part of the commission's role especially seriously.

"I think we should do something now we have been meaning to do for some time," he said. "Would the victims and families of the victims please come up to the front? It

has been traditional that we recognise the agony of the victims by standing up and reflecting on their pain."

The bemused victims, some of whom had accused Mrs Mandela of murder, shuffled forward. Their lawyers, who were anxious to get their teeth into President Mandela's ex-wife, were plunged into confusion as Joyce Seipei, Stormie's mother, was grabbed by the woman who many witnesses alleged had tortured her son and ordered his killing. Mrs Mandela hugged her and kissed her on the lips, grasping her by the shoulder while photographers captured the moment.

Set up to investigate human rights abuses between 1960 and 1994 and to hear amnesty applications for political crimes, the commission is not a court of law. Almost toothless, its most dramatic sanction can be to deny amnesty, and recommend that the police investigate any abuses.

The commission's finding on the hearings into Mrs Mandela and the activities of her gang of bodyguards, the Mandela United Football Club, may not be published for months. A criminal prosecution of Mrs Mandela, if the commission suggests it, may then take years to complete. Over the 18-month life of the

commission's hearings, held all over the country, witnesses and Archbishop Tutu have broken down as they recalled torture sessions at the hands of the white Government's security police. The police themselves have sometimes also broken down and begged for forgiveness. One or two have even crossed the halls where the hearings have been held, in tears, to embrace the families of their victims.

The process, many South Africans say, is cathartic. "We cannot move forward until we know everything that has happened. And then learn to forgive. If not forget," one newspaper columnist wrote.

The problems come when major players in the apartheid drama refuse to understand this. Some amnesty applicants, such as those in the Steve Biko murder case in 1977, cannot forget that they are supposed to make "full

and frank confessions", and continue to claim that their victim "banged his head against the wall during a struggle"—thinking, perhaps, that they are in the dock on a murder charge.

The former President, P. W. Botha, has refused to acknowledge a subpoena to appear today at hearings into the State Security Council he chaired, saying the process was a "circus". He will face two years in jail if he does not turn up in Cape Town.

Real problems come for the commission when members of the new ANC establishment like Mrs Mandela take the stand. Few sympathise with Eugene de Kock, who ran the "Vlakplaas" death squads. But how does one approach a hero of the struggle like Mrs Mandela? The answer, judging from the past eight days of commission hearings, is gently.

A Viglen PC at this Price! It must be Christmas.



Buy Now
Pay
June '98*
or
Easy2Own
£32.04
per month (APR 17.9%)

Viglen

There may be a lot of PCs on offer, but a Viglen Multimedia PC at this price is simply outstanding value. For just £839 (excluding VAT and delivery) you get a state-of-the-art internet ready system with built-in stereo speakers featuring the Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology (for enhanced sight, sound and communications capabilities). And it comes with a wealth of Microsoft® and games software with a retail value of over £350.00.

What's more, you can upgrade to a more powerful processor for as little as £90.00.

To make your Christmas a Viglen Christmas call us today.

- Microsoft® Windows® 95
- Microsoft® Works for Windows® 95
- Microsoft® Encarta® 97
- Microsoft® Money
- Microsoft® Golf
- Microsoft® Shape School Bus, Rain Forest
- Microsoft® Gas
- Microsoft® Windows Entertainment Puzzle Pack
- CRY Easy Tutor
- Ultimate Human Body II
- Thrillers of Technology
- The Third Dimension
- International Space Station
- POP

Processor	Memory	Hard Drive	Graphics Card	Price
Pentium® 90MHz	16MB	2.5GB	2MB	£839.00
Pentium® 100MHz	16MB	2.5GB	2MB	£899.00
Pentium® 100MHz	16MB	2.5GB	2MB	£949.00

Home Value PC Specifications: Intel® Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology • Desktop Case • 16MB RAM • 512K Cache • 2.5GB Hard Drive • 2MB Graphics Card • 24 Speed CD-ROM • 3.5" Floppy Drive • Multimedia Sound • 2 serial, 1 parallel, 1 game, 2 PS/2 and 2 USB ports • 33 Mbps modem with internet access • 14" Color Monitor with built-in stereo speakers • Keyboard • Microsoft® Multimedia

For more information or to place your order
Tel 0990 39 39 39

open - open weekdays 9am - 5pm, Saturdays 10am - 4pm, Sundays 11am - 4pm
Calls charged at National Rate

fax 0181 758 7080

web <http://www.viglen.co.uk>

3 DAY DELIVERY PROMISE
Order by 10 December 1997 and we will guarantee delivery by Christmas

Viglen is a registered trademark of Viglen Limited. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows and Works are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks are acknowledged. Prices correct at time of going to press. 1111 - 1337. *Easy2Own monthly payment scheme available subject to status. VAT amount £100.00. Delivery by 30 January 1998. 12345 - 12345. **See your local Viglen dealer for details. Viglen Limited is a limited liability company. **See website for details.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



ALL THIS CAN BE YOURS

Why Kylie's up for grabs. This weekend in style

THE SUNDAY TIMES... THE SUNDAY TIMES... THE SUNDAY TIMES...

مكتبة الأهل

Woody Allen's lost laugh at Nixon

By JAMES BONE

A NEW YORK television station has unearthed a never-aired 1971 TV film by Woody Allen lampooning President Richard Nixon and is seeking his permission to broadcast it. *Men of Crisis: the Harvey Wallinger Story* stars Allen as the top aide to President Nixon in a clear swipe at Dr Henry Kissinger, his Secretary of State. The 25-minute mock documentary juxtaposes Allen with a Nixon lookalike and uses news footage of bumbling politicians.

The fictional Wallinger got his PhD in needlework from Dr Kissinger's alma mater, Harvard University, and set a record by graduating 96th in a class of 95. Allen wrote the film in ten days and shot it for state-funded public television just in time to be shown for Nixon's triumphant re-election campaign — before Watergate. The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) shied away from broadcasting it, however, apparently because it feared the wrath of the thin-skinned Nixon.

William Baker, president of New York's public television station WNET, received a video-cassette from an executive who had worked on the film.

Iraq planned to bribe UN weapons team

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq was convinced he could bribe most of the United Nations arms inspectors to turn a blind eye to his secret chemical and biological weapons programme, William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, disclosed yesterday.

However, the Iraqi leader realised he would not be able to buy the US and British officials, Mr Cohen said.

Speaking at a joint press conference in London with George Robertson, his British counterpart, Mr Cohen warned Saddam that the confrontation between Iraq and the UN Special Commission (Unscm) responsible for weapons inspections was not over. "The crisis has been put on hold, not resolved," he said.

After thanking Britain for backing the United States by sending a military force to the Mediterranean for potential strike missions against Saddam's warfare facilities, Mr Cohen said a senior Iraqi military officer who had recently defected had given details of Saddam's plans for developing weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraqi defector, he said, had disclosed that Saddam planned to "hide, conceal and

secrete these weapons, that he was convinced Unscm was just a temporary nuisance and that they could be bought anyway".

Mr Cohen said Saddam believed "he could bribe the officials with the exception of the American and British".

"Fortunately, that's not the case, fortunately we have inspectors who are doing a heroic job and they are very professional," Mr Cohen said.

He felt it was his duty, he said, to keep telling everyone what the Iraqi leader was trying to achieve. "He has been lying from the very beginning. He denied he had any biological weapons programme but the inspection team discovered 2,100 gallons of anthrax, one spore of which could kill you after a few days," he said.

Mr Robertson made it clear that HMS *Invisible*, the aircraft carrier which was deployed from the Caribbean to the Mediterranean and is equipped with RAF Harrier GR7s as well as Navy Sea Harriers, would remain in the region for as long as it was necessary to maintain military pressure on Saddam. Britain and the US were prepared to use military force

against Iraq if necessary to ensure unrestricted UN access to all facilities in the search for chemical and biological weapons, Mr Robertson and Mr Cohen said.

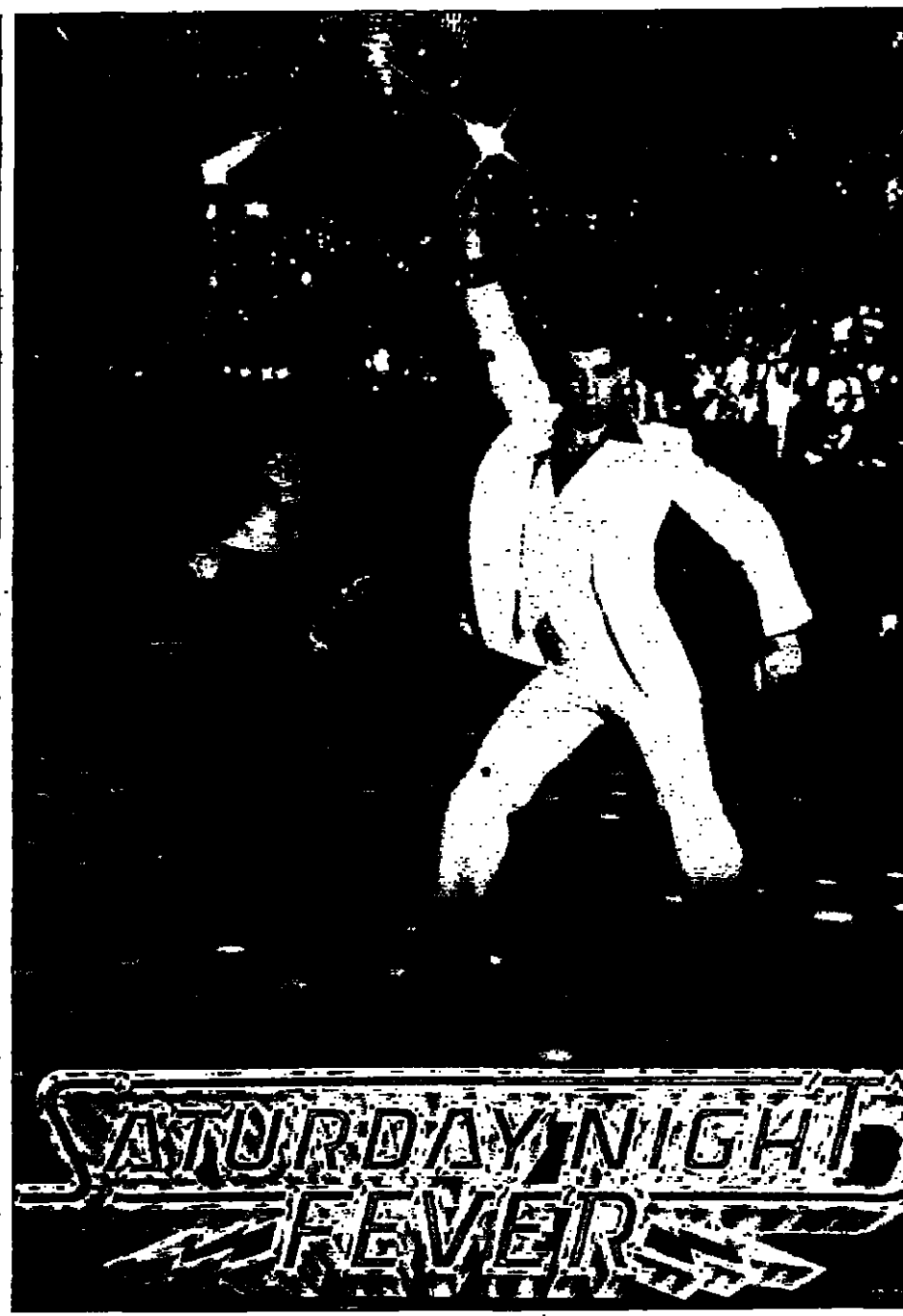
Mr Robertson said that, if Saddam continued to defy the UN, "he knows there are forces there from at least two countries, and probably from more, up against him".

Richard Butler, the Australian head of Unscm, is due to visit Baghdad next week and both Mr Cohen and Mr Robertson said he must be firm in demanding "unfettered" inspections for weapons of mass destruction.

"If he has nothing to fear, then he should have no objection to the UN inspectors going into these facilities," Mr Cohen said.

□ Iraq cleared: The International Atomic Energy Agency, based in Vienna, said yesterday that Baghdad did not resort to illegal nuclear activities between October 29 and November 20, after the UN inspectors had left the country.

The statement was issued as Iraq ranked Mr Butler among its "enemies" and said his mission to persuade Baghdad to open all sites to inspection was bound to fail.



John Travolta in *Saturday Night Fever*, which evolved from a piece of fiction

WORLD SUMMARY

Ecologist accused of killing

Paris A prominent elected official of the French Green Party was arrested early yesterday for allegedly stabbing to death his wife's 36-year-old lover in what was described as a classic and brutal crime passionnel (Ben Macintyre writes).

Alain Tredez, 49, a senior member of the regional council of northern France and a flamboyant ecology campaigner, was seized by police outside the home of his alleged victim in Dunkirk.

According to judicial sources, M Tredez appeared to have launched a frenzied attack on his rival, who has not been formally identified.

Italy ships more Albanians home

Rome Two Italian naval vessels ferried more than 400 Albanians across the Adriatic to their homeland while hundreds of others awaited deportation at airports and ports in southern Italy, after a decree for their expulsion which came into force on Sunday. Authorities were shutting down the last of the church shelters that have hosted some 17,000 Albanians who fled the turmoil in their homeland earlier this year. (AP)

Palme suspect may be retried

Stockholm Christer Pettersson, 50, who was convicted but later acquitted of the 1986 murder of Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, may face a new trial, according to reports here. New evidence makes it possible for the prosecution to ask the Supreme Court for a retrial. Palme's widow, Lisbeth, positively identified Pettersson as the killer. (Reuters)

Mother sent son to paedophile

Belfort A French mother, 36, was jailed for two years, one suspended, for prostituting her 14-year-old son. The paedophile to whom she sent him was given four years, one suspended. Paid between Fr30 (£3) and Fr50 for each visit, she said she "wanted to have a bit of money hidden away from my husband". (AFP)

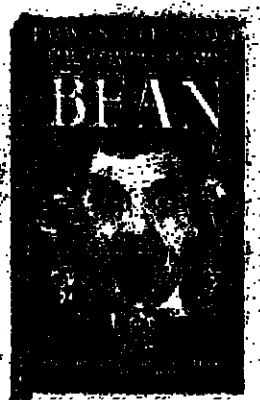
No-sleeping pills

Dhaka Taslim Uddin, 60, a businessman in Bangladesh with three wives and 13 children, has not slept for 13 years despite high doses of sedatives, a newspaper reported. Doctors said he seemed to have suffered no ill effects from his insomnia. (AFP)

You'll laugh at these videos, and smile at the Bonus Points.



£13-99



RRP £14-99 £13-99



RRP £14-99 £13-99



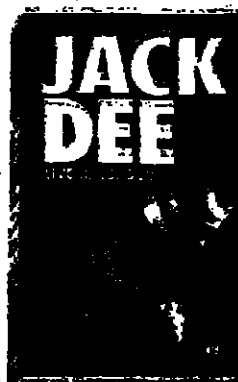
RRP £14-99 £13-99



RRP £15-99 £13-99



£13-99



RRP £14-99 £13-99



RRP £14-99 £13-99



RRP £14-99 £13-99

Collect 350 Clubcard Bonus Points when you buy any of these comedy releases on video. Only at WHSmith.

Whatever they're into, get into WHSmith

OFFER ENDS 14TH DECEMBER 1997. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT WHSMITH VIDEO STOCKISTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ERRORS AND OMISSIONS EXCEPTED.

Disco fever writer is staying a lie

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE British journalist who wrote the magazine article on New York's disco culture that became the film *Saturday Night Fever* has confessed that he made it up.

Nick Cohn said the character played by John Travolta in the 1977 film was a composite of a "Brooklyn disco-goer glimpsed in a doorway, a teenage gang member in his hometown, Derry, and Chris, a mod from London. I faked it," Mr Cohn admits in a piece marking the twentieth anniversary of the movie in *New York*, the weekly in which the original article appeared.

"There was no excuse for it," he writes. "At the time, if cornered, I would doubtless have produced some high-flown waffle about Alternative Realities, tried to argue that writing didn't have to be true to be, at some level, real. But of course, I would have been full of it. I knew the rules of magazine reporting, and I knew that I was breaking

them. Bluntly put, I cheated."

The confession means that the *Saturday Night Fever* disco phenomenon, now popular among a new generation, is based on a journalistic myth.

Travolta's hip-swinging character, in his white suit and open-necked black shirt, is a plain impostor.

Mr Cohn describes how he crossed the Atlantic after an energising spell in London in the 1960s to find New York pale by comparison. In need of an "energy fix" not available at the usual record company parties, he trawled the streets for colourful characters and came upon a black disco-dancer called Tu Sweet.

Acting as his guide, Tu Sweet took him to the now famous 2001 Odyssey disco in the Italian-American enclave of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

Mr Cohn's piece was published under the heading "Tribal Rites of the New Saturday Night." Soon, *Fever* mania set in.

Our service is available in the UK only. Your Swiftcall account can be used from any landline phone including mobiles and pagers. Swiftcall's quoted prices apply. Minimum 10p. Excludes calls to 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 016, 017, 018, 019, 020, 021, 022, 023, 024, 025, 026, 027, 028, 029, 030, 031, 032, 033, 034, 035, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 041, 042, 043, 044, 045, 046, 047, 048, 049, 050, 051, 052, 053, 054, 055, 056, 057, 058, 059, 060, 061, 062, 063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 068, 069, 070, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076, 077, 078, 079, 080, 081, 082, 083, 084, 085, 086, 087, 088, 089, 090, 091, 092, 093, 094, 095, 096, 097, 098, 099, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

SWIFTCALL 0800 769 0022

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS WITH SWIFTCALL

TALK IS CHEAP!

Call us today free on 0800 769 0022

for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre-paid account.

Country	Swiftcall	B.T.	SAVE
Australia	20p	Vs 49p	59%
India	50p	Vs £120	58%
Japan	20p	Vs 77p	74%
USA	8p	Vs 24p	67%
N.Zealand	20p	Vs 49p	59%
Hong Kong	30p	Vs 58p	48%

NEW SWIFTCALL CALLING CARD! FOR INCREDIBLE SAVINGS OF UP TO 70% ON BETTER PAYPHONE RATES. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL MESSAGE DISTRIBUTOR. URGENTLY INQUIRED. FOR GET A FREE HOME 0800 769 0171

Holland ready to fill gaps in ranks with boy troops

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

THE Dutch Army is considering recruiting 16-year-olds in a desperate attempt to fill ranks severely depleted by the abolition of conscription almost a year ago. The army is almost 25 per cent below its required strength.

Under human rights legislation, the youngsters would not be able to carry arms but could "practise with sticks" until they reached the legal minimum age of 17. Academic requirements would be lowered for the fast-reaction force, which contributes to Nato operations. Military command is also considering doubling the percentage of women soldiers to 12 per cent in a decade.

"The idea is to set up a college which would give the youngsters an education and a taste of the army, after which they could sign up fully," a spokesman for the AFMP soldiers' union said. "It would be done in partnership with the corporate sector, so recruits could get a civilian job after a couple of years."

The recruitment problem has been exacerbated by the military's shoddy image and low morale. Since Dutch troops were blamed for the fall of Srebrenica, Bosnia, in 1995, the military has been rocked by scandals involving gross misconduct.

This year soldiers have been found guilty of drug smuggling with one non-commissioned officer running an Ecstasy distribution ring from a base in Germany. A report in September revealed that Dutch officers taking part in a UN peacekeeping operation in Angola had sex with minors

and attempted to smuggle diamonds and marijuana. The army command was accused of turning a blind eye and did not report the misconduct.

However, attempts to tighten discipline in a military force to wear pony tails and earrings have largely misfired. Plans to shorten hairstyles and smarten dress codes were ditched recently after the first victim of the new regime raised a wave of protest.

A new code of conduct for the army has also been lambasted as infantile. The eight-point charter, published in October, consists of a ban on drugs and the inordinate consumption of alcohol. It orders soldiers to respect all cultures and human rights, refrain from intimidation and "rumour-mongering and tit-for-tattle", and to help people in need whenever they can.

An army spokesman said the code, which would have to come into effect before the end of next year, was vital to achieve a fully professional military force by 2000.

"The Dutch Army is increasingly working within international crisis-management operations and humanitarian aid exercises. The whole world is watching. Dutch soldiers have to look professional and act professionally," he said.

To introduce the code, the army issued all its 35,000 personnel with a sheet of coloured stickers on which were printed the code text. The idea was that soldiers would exchange stickers to get a full set. The union said the code was "an insult to a soldier's intelligence".

Rift between islands widens as Nevis seeks independence

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN CHARLESTOWN, ST KITTS AND NEVIS

EVER since these two islands were joined by their British colonial masters more than 100 years ago, forming the smallest nation in this hemisphere, St Kitts and Nevis have never seen eye to eye.

Now Nevis is hoping to break away, after the island's five-member assembly voted last month to hold a referendum on independence.

Measuring only 36 square miles and with a population of barely 10,000, an independent Nevis would rank among the smallest countries in the world, second only to Vatican City and the phosphate-rich Pacific island of Nauru. "We might end up being the smallest country on earth, but at least the people will be free," said Kenneth Williams, editor and publisher of the local weekly newspaper, the *St. Kitts-Nevis Observer*. The referendum could be held as early as April.

While St Kitts has always



been the seat of government, from early colonial times it was Nevis that outshone its big brother. Nevisians have long grumbled that they get a raw deal from central government. "We are treated as second-class citizens," said Mark Brantley, 28, an Oxford-educated lawyer on Nevis. "There is a vast inequality of infrastructure."

In cricket, Nevis has produced a crop of international stars. Nevisians proudly claim a higher level of education and civic responsibility. The island boasts the highest number of churches per capita — one for every 200 inhabitants — in the Caribbean and is virtually crime-free, unlike St Kitts.

To keep itself afloat financially, Nevis, like other English-speaking islands in the Caribbean, is staking its future on tourism and off-shore finance. "Officials on St Kitts will not discuss how they would view relations after a secession. Any dismemberment of the state is not something you can be happy about," said Joseph Edmeade, the central government's Chief of Staff. "But we are not going around in sackcloth."

PROTEST MEETING
Against Indian Government's failure to punish the perpetrators of Babri Mosque destruction on 6 Dec 1992, and those who committed crimes during the ensuing riots, and the wrongful detention of hundreds of Muslims under TADA
Sat. 6 December 1997 6pm
INDIAN MUSLIM FEDERATION (UK) HALL
Trinity Close
London E11 4KP
Tel: 0181 558 6399

YOU COULD PAY LESS.

For affordable private health cover call us NOW.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

0800 77 99 55
Quoting reference R08762NG



Ira Einhorn, right, in a Bordeaux court for his extradition appeal, talks to his lawyer, Dominique Delthil

French court frees fugitive killer in rebuff to America

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

IRA EINHORN, the former hippy guru and convicted murderer who has evaded American justice for two decades, was set free yesterday after an appeal court in Bordeaux refused to extradite him to America to serve a life sentence.

Einhorn, 57, faces a 1993 conviction in absentia for the murder of his girlfriend in 1977, but his lawyers successfully argued that he would be denied a retrial, as required under French law, if he were sent back.

After delaying a ruling for three months, the Bordeaux court ordered Einhorn's immediate release, in a rebuff to the American authorities who have hunted the fugitive since 1981 when he jumped bail and vanished. The chief prosecutor of Bordeaux has appealed against the verdict.

The burly, bearded Einhorn, who maintains his innocence, said "thank you" when the court delivered its long-awaited ruling. Immediately after the court hearing, Einhorn was summoned before another judge on charges

of using a false passport, illegally living in France under an alias.

The convicted killer could eventually be expelled from France for violating immigration rules, but in the meantime the only restriction on his movement is a legal order to remain in the Charente region of southwest France pending the inquiry into his residency status.

Einhorn's triumphant lawyers last night predicted that the convicted man would never be forced to return to America. "The United States has realised today, to its distress, that it still has lessons to learn from old Europe in the area of human rights," said Dominique Delthil, Einhorn's lawyer.

Einhorn was convicted of murdering his hippy girlfriend, Holly Maddux, whose body was found in his Philadelphia flat 18 months after the killing.

Having skipped bail, Einhorn fled to Europe and lived quietly, using various assumed names, in Britain, Scandinavia and Switzerland.

Perfect for Christmas unbeatable for Price.

New Showroom now open in Lakeside

HOME LEISURE PLUS SYSTEM

- Intel 200MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology
- 32MB EDO RAM
- 4.2GB UDMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- 4MB 3-D Graphics Card
- 24 speed Max CD ROM
- Wavetable 32 Soundcard
- 180 Watt PMPO Speakers
- 56Kbps Voice Fax/Modem
- Canon BJC 250 Colour Printer
- Joystick
- Over £700 of Microsoft and other Software
- Windows '95

OFFICE CONNECT SYSTEM

- Intel 233MHz Pentium® II Processor
- Mid Tower Case
- 32MB SD RAM
- 5.2GB UDMA Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- 4MB 3-D Graphics Card
- 24 speed Max CD ROM Drive
- 56Kbps Voice Fax/Modem
- Wavetable 32 Integrated Sound
- Canon BJC 250 Colour Printer
- Joystick
- Over £300 of Microsoft Software
- Windows '95

HOME MEDIA OPTION

OFFICE CONNECT SYSTEM

Pay nothing until October 1998 - not even a deposit. Specification as above plus a stack of home entertainment software (Body Works, Kitchen Gourmet, Design IT! 3D, The Oregon Trail, Home Gardener, Typing Teacher, Reading Journey).

£1099 **£1291³³** **£1299** **£1526³³** **£1369** **£1608³³**

OTHER SYSTEMS START FROM
£669 INC. VAT

THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET

TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, SALFORDS, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5YB.
FAX 01293 822 514. www.tinycomp.co.uk

All trademarks acknowledged. All prices and manufacturers specifications are subject to change without notice. Please check availability before ordering. Goods are offered for sale subject to standard conditions of sale available on request. E&OE. Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and MMX is a trademark of the Intel Corporation. Prices exclude delivery.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREEPHONE

0800 7319372

TINY

50 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

ALTRINCHAM*	EXETER*	MEADOWHALL*
BELFAST*	GLASGOW*	SHEFFIELD*
BIRMINGHAM*	GLOUCESTER*	NEWCASTLE*
BOLTON*	GUILDFORD*	NORTHAMPTON*
BRIGHTON*	HUDDERSFIELD*	NORWICH*
BRISTOL*	ILFORD*	NOTTINGHAM*
BROMLEY*	IPSWICH*	OXFORD*
CAMBRIDGE*	KINGSTON*	PETERBOROUGH*
CANTERBURY*	LAKESIDE*	READING*
CARDIFF*	LEEDS*	SOLIHULL*
CHELMSFORD*	LEICESTER*	SOUTHAMPTON*
CHESTER*	LIVERPOOL*	STOKE*
COVENTRY*	LINCOLN*	SWINDON*
CRAWLEY*	LONDON W1	TUNBRIDGE WELLS*
CROYDON*	LONDON SW10	WATFORD*
EALING*	LONDON EC2	WOLVERHAMPTON*
EDINBURGH*	MANCHESTER*	

SWINDON OPENS SATURDAY



JANE SHILLING GETS DRESSED

Time to put on a performance

There is a glorious moment in Pamela Brown's children's novel, *The Wish of the Curtain*, when the band of junior thespians hit a snag in their attempt to put on a play. The leading lady has to make an instant impact. She is magical, alluring, entrancing and so on, and she needs to dress the part. But there is only about half a crown in the kitty. Not enough to buy a single yard of silk or satin. What are they to do? The answer turns out to be... lining material. It's flimsy, it's dirt cheap and in natural light it looks thoroughly nasty. By night, however, under stage lighting, it is a different story. It acquires the glamorous, pale-blue lustre of a South Sea pearl. The dress — and the children's show — are a howling success.

There is a useful lesson here for anyone currently contemplating the prospect of a month of heavy partying, and it is one that contradicts all the normal rules of clothes-buying. Proper shoppers when considering a purchase ask themselves just two questions: do I really like it, and is it of superlative quality — beautiful material, lovingly made, carefully finished? If the answer to both questions is yes, then the sale is made. It may be eccentric, it may be last season's look. None of this matters. If the workmanship is good its time will come.

(In 1986 I bought, for a tenner, a pair of hand-stitched, real crocodile court shoes from Bruno Magli. They were old Seventies stock, with square toes and chunky six-inch heels, and they were so wildly out of fashion that they looked quite shocking. Everyone in the office thought me quite mad to waste ten pounds in this reckless fashion. But here we are, a decade later, and suddenly these same shoes are so cutting-edge it hurts. They emerged from the depths of the wardrobe to their long-awaited 15 minutes of fashion fame and admiring cries of "They're amazing. Where did you get them?" QED.)

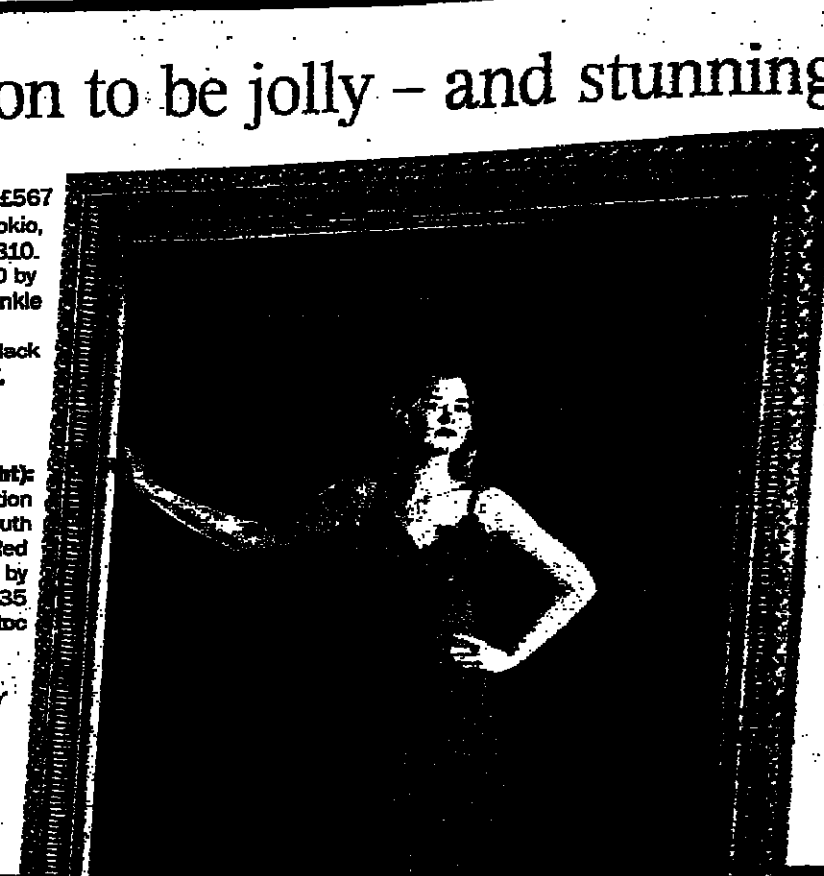
But every rule has its exception, and party dresses are it. Though I suppose it depends a bit on what sort of party you intend going to. If you are planning to attend just one perfect, civilised soiree, then you might get away with just one perfect frock, hand-stitched by Sicilian nuns. (Though if it is the same perfect frock as last year, you may be sure that your young man's last girlfriend but one will side over and gush "Oh, you look wonderful. I've always loved that dress. It just goes on and on, doesn't it?")

If, on the other hand, you are thinking of spending from now until Epiphany racketeering from drinks to dinner to nightclubs to brunch, then you should tell yourself that what you are doing is not getting dressed in the ordinary sense, but putting on a performance. And so what you need are half a dozen little outfits that will make a brief but dazzling impact. And the place to look for these outfits is the high street, where they seem to turn around designer looks with greater speed, skill and economy. That crêpe column — is it Gucci, or Wallis? The beaded chiffon — Warehouse, or Ferretti? In a dim light, with the champagne sparkling, believe me, no one will be able to tell — unless you decide to let them get close enough to examine the label.

'Tis the season to be jolly — and stunning



Nancy Bridgewater (left): Black lace dress with pink embroidery, £567 by Elspeth Gibson from a selection at Tokio, 309 Brompton Road SW3. 0171-823 7310. Black and pink feather headpiece, £150 by Dai Rees at Tokio. Black satin beaded ankle strap stiletto, £255 by Patrick Cox, 8 Synnors Street SW3. 0171-730 8504. Black silk velvet embossed scarf with beading, £180 from a selection at Snap Dragon, 247 Fulham Road SW3. 0171-376 8889



Millie Saunders (right): Red slip with roses, £150 from a selection by Bella Aura at Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street W1. 0171-629 0666. Red snakeskin stiletto court shoe, £235 by Gina, 189 Sloane Street SW1. 0171 235 2932. Black sheer tights, £3.50 by Aristoc

Marika Chikheidze (below): Silver sequin dress with side slits, £35 by Etam from stores nationwide. 0171-437 5655. Crystal tiara, £165 by Erickson Beamon. Black velvet stiletto, £230 by Gucci, 33 Old Bond Street W1



Ready to party

Photographer: KARL GRANT Stylist: Nicola Goldie
Hair: Flavian Abbas at Michaeljohn Management using Sebastian Products
Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management

KENYA

7 nights MASAI SAFARI from £893

Breathtaking landscapes, superior lodges. Includes Samburu Serena, Sweetwaters Tented Camp/Mount Kenya Safari Club, Lake Nakuru and the Mara Serena. Can be combined with Mombasa, Zanzibar, the Seychelles & Mauritius.

Sonak
HOLIDAYS
0181 423 3000

in association with
Kenya Airways
The pride of Africa

*The brightest
Christmas
ideas are found
at Ernest Jones.*

Ernest Jones
THE DIAMOND AND WATCH SPECIALIST.
For your nearest store, call 0181 905 9000

Take three girls, different budgets, and lots of party invitations. What dresses would they choose? Grace Bradberry finds out

A really great party dress can transform the month of December. Even if your social firmament doesn't sparkle very much, there is always one party where dressing up is *de rigueur*. Fashion pundits may recommend tuxedos, metallic trousers, clever combinations of camisoles and skirts — but there is nothing like the joy of throwing on one really stunning dress. As Dorothy Parker said: "Where's the man could ease the heart like a satin gown?" We asked three

consummate party girls — none of them models — to go out shopping, each with a particular budget in mind, and show off their spoils in the studio. Here they reveal their secrets.

Under £600: Nancy Bridgewater, 26, is a designer who is breaking into television. She chose an Elspeth Gibson embroidered dress. She spends the least of anyone on clothes — but fantasises about having a designer budget. "I've never really bought something spe-

cifically to go out in. Then I found this amazing bead dress by Elspeth Gibson, which I would definitely wear — if I could afford it. It's the kind of thing that would make a real impact."

Under £150: Millie Saunders, 24, PA to Chris Bailey, director of Jigsaw menswear, wears a red slip dress by Belle Aura. The woman behind Belle Aura is Deborah Anderson, a singer who began making handbags to pay the rent. She takes antique slips, dyes them using Dylon and adds beautiful silk flowers and velvets, making each dress a one-off. Nicole Kidman recently bought five in one go. Winona Ryder is another client.

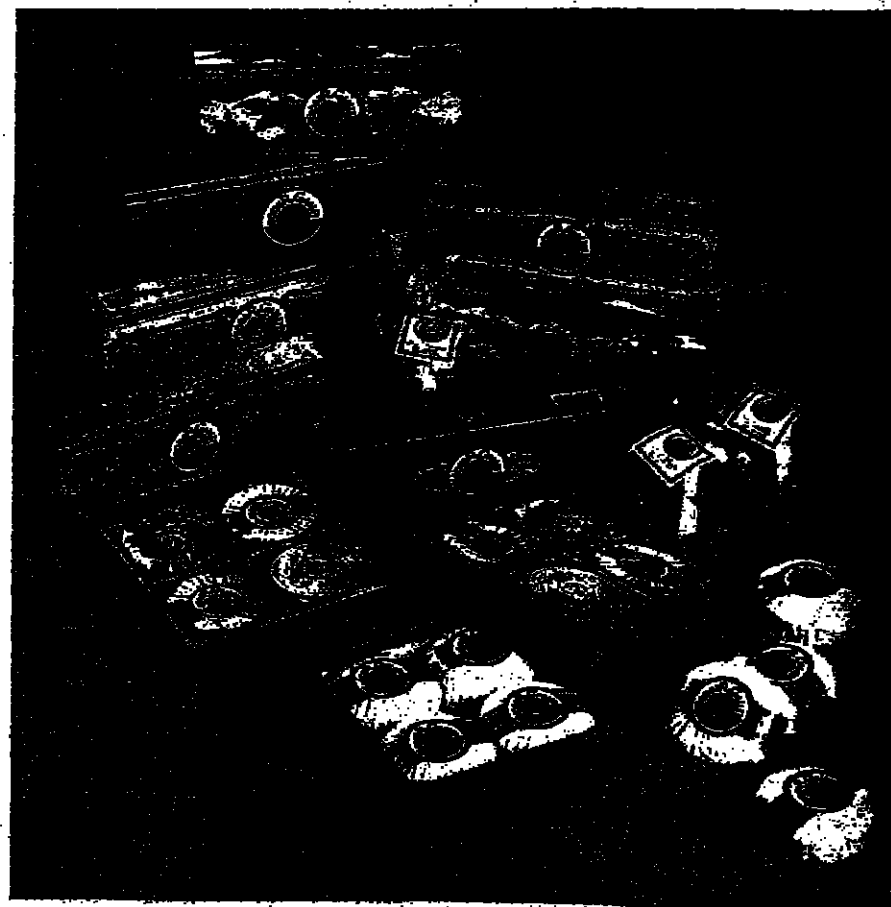
"I go to a lot of parties, some of them connected with work, and I tend to wear different things. I'd never heard of Belle Aura before, but I think this dress is a real find."

Under £50: Marika Chikheidze, 18, is reading history at King's College London. She lived in Moscow until she was 10, when her family moved to London. Her family takes clothes very seriously. "I'm going to two university balls before Christmas and a big new year do. I would definitely wear this Etam dress, and it's so cheap."



LACOSTE

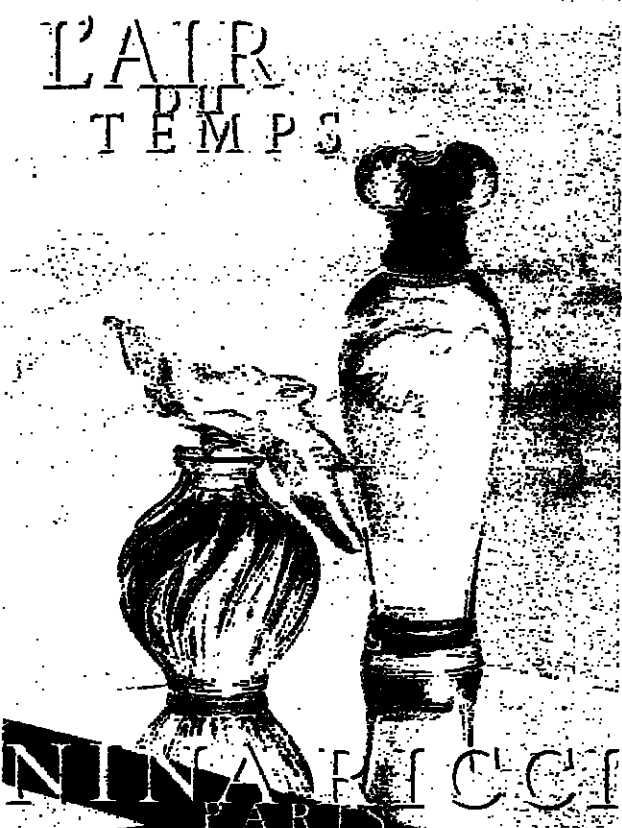
ENJOY SOME FRESH SENSATIONS THIS CHRISTMAS.



Awash with the most refreshing gift ideas.

ROGER & GALLET
Parfumeurs Depuis 1862.

FINE SOAPS & TOILETRIES AVAILABLE NOW FROM LEADING CHEMISTS, PERFUMERIES & DEPARTMENT STORES.



مكتبة الأهل

Holistic medicine for the excluded

John Lloyd says Mandelson's unit heralds a revolution in government

One "challenge above all others" will be met next week: the most important innovation Labour has made in government will be unveiled. That challenge must be overcome, that innovation must be seen to work, before Labour "can deserve another historic victory". Could the stakes be higher?

The speech from which those quotations were taken was made in the dog days of August by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio. The challenge he raised was what the Government calls the poor or the underclass, preferring the longer phrase because it believes it better describes a condition that is less a product of lack of money or socio-economic position than of exclusion from the networks which provide jobs, support, and sociability.

It was seen — naturally — as a gambit to attract party support for the seat he then covered on Labour's National Executive Committee: what, after all, has Mr Mandelson to do with the socially excluded, or they with Mr Mandelson? It was meant to serve ambition, what senior politician's speech is not? But the words remain on record, enshrined, indeed, in a Fabian pamphlet — long after the gambit failed. A person of the stature of the Minister without Portfolio has pledged that success in overcoming social exclusion is a condition of winning the next election.

He also said that the medium through which this modern scourge is to be tackled — a Social Exclusion Unit, working within the Cabinet Office directly to the Prime Minister — would be up and running by September. It did not happen; but the unit has been coming together for the past month, and will be formally announced early next week. The delay was due to the time needed to assemble the dozen high-flying civil servants and voluntary sector executives who are its staff. But if the time taken was due to bureaucratic hurdles, the aim of the unit is to slash bureaucracy — even to revolutionise government. Mr Mandelson was right: this will be — if it works — the most important innovation Labour introduces into government.

The task itself is not so much vast as system-challenging. What we know of the socially excluded — and they are much studied — points to families and individuals for whom the very workings of the modern world militate against their inclusion. Unable or unwilling to educate themselves, they do not know how to read the increasingly intricate instructions to contemporary life. Unlike their predecessors, the poor, they have narcotics — the legal kinds which come via the screen in the corner of the room, the illegal kind which are bought in the alley. These keep them quiet, but further deepens their exclusion.

To reach and "include" these people while simultaneously furthering and celebrating the forces which exclude them will take some doing. But the unit's brief is only part of its broader purpose. It is explicitly meant to be a prototype for a re-invention of government. Those who are designing the unit believe that it will succeed

in its first aim of inclusion only if it succeeds in its secondary aim of deconstructing, then reconstructing, Whitehall. What is being proposed is nothing less than an end to the departmentalism which has its roots in the 19th century, and which has survived fundamentally unchanged to this day. It has for some time been a major strand of new Labour thinking that this no longer serves its purposes; that its radicalism and ambitions cannot be cramped within a Victorian corset, and that it must be ripped open.

Ripped open, to be replaced with something which has been given a name: "holistic government". The name is that of a pamphlet published by Demos, the most influential new Labour think-tank, whose founder Geoff Mulgan has a crucial role at the Downing Street policy unit. Demos defines as holistic an administration which deals with issues in the round rather than through dozens of separate agencies and departments.

The idea is that the families and individuals who constitute the excluded are "consumers" of subsidies, services, and advice. The case workers who now guard the portals of the agencies set up to minister to the excluded would be liberated to shape the packages they need to gain inclusion again. By purchasing services across departments, such packages should be more or less individualised solutions to individual problems. Instead of trying to "cure" social exclusion, the State should concentrate on preventing it.

The fragmented and feudal nature of government departments — which enforces turf wars, ownership of clients and ministerial competitiveness — is hostile to this project. The Social Exclusion Unit is designed to destroy this feudal culture. Its civil servants are taken from a variety of departments. Within each department, a minister below Cabinet rank and a senior civil servant are assigned to the unit. The permanent secretaries' group on social exclusion, set up on an ad hoc basis under the previous Government, continues to meet. At the apex of this structure sits the Prime Minister, to whom the unit reports. Tony Blair said of it last week that it was "in many ways the defining difference between ourselves and the previous administration".

If the unit works, it works twice. It includes the excluded, and excludes the excluded. It erects a working model at the very heart of government of a new way of running the country. It is new Labour doing what it was born for. It will, if successful, stand as the answer to Roy Hattersley, who has kept up a withering fire on what he sees as the Government's empty pretensions to deal with poverty.

And it will, if successful, convince those of us who bought and still buy new Labour's economic claims that we were right: its failure would be disillusioning indeed — for the electorate too. It is in society's depths where new Labour will find its just desserts, or be denied them.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.



The price of Paddy's pact

Liberal Democrats are letting Labour off the hook — and betraying their principles

On Monday this week the Liberal Democrats elected in May were offered what was perhaps their best opportunity so far to embarrass the Government. And this would have been no mere opportunism. They had the chance to present an honest case consistent with their principles and passions.

The occasion was a debate on welfare. The Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, was twisting on the rack of an Opposition motion criticising her policies towards single parents, pensioners and the disabled.

Both the Conservative and Labour parties were on sticky ground. Ms Harman was, after all, implementing Tory policies running counter to the whole spirit of new Labour's covenant with the weakest in society. Ms Harman's argument — "single mothers want work, not benefit" — rang as false as Tory complaints on single mothers' behalf.

Harman faced mutiny from her own backbenchers. A third of Labour's parliamentary infantry had written protesting to the Chancellor. Journalists were alert. The whips had made strenuous efforts to scare dissenters off and drag into the chamber all the bootlickers they could find. The Labour benches were half-empty, and uneasy.

What an opportunity for Paddy Ashdown! As Harriet Harman rose at 3.38 with the front bench beside her tight-lipped, her backbenchers gagged and the official Opposition hobbled, there was only one party with the moral right and the weight of numbers to make a noise. Liberal Democrats are, by habit, the best speakers in the chamber. Now, with head and heart and in full throat, they could have created quite a fuss.

Three turned up. There was David Rendel, the Lib-Dem social security spokesman, plus two backbenchers: less than 7 percent of their party. The Tories numbered a little above 20; about 15 percent, and a similar proportion to the Parliamentary Labour Party's backbench showing. Later, other Lib Dems wandered in, at around the time the press were wandering out, the critical opening speeches — the time when the Government was embarrassed — having passed. When it came to the division, the party, headed by Paddy Ashdown, joined the Government in voting down the Opposition motion.

Call me a parliamentary anarchist, but I think that was significant. It does not really matter whether the big patch of empty green leather and the white space in the Hansard list of Ayes, where Liberal Democrats

ought to have been, arose by mistake, misjudgment or design. You do not need to postulate conspiracy to conclude that our third party feels hesitant on the question of whether its role is to make serious trouble for this Government. However things may look outside Westminster and on the pollsters' charts, in the Commons chamber the Labour Party is an open goal and the Tories are injured players. This is the Lib Dems' big chance to score, and they haven't even got their boots on.

Nor do we speak only of gamesmanship. The Liberal Democrats' opportunity is more than tactical and arises from principle.

If I search my own imagination for what makes an MP, an activist or a core supporter a Liberal Democrat, the words liberty and compassion leap forward. That in practice these two ideas can pull in opposing directions is a contradiction with which liberals in every age and all parties have to wrestle. It subverts not a whit from their centrality within our third party's instincts. Liberals really do believe in individual freedom — that is why they did not become socialists. And they really do believe in the State's overriding duty to care for the weak. That is why they did not become Tories.

Liberty and compassion. And where does new Labour inspire the most profound unease? Not, surely, on the issue of competence. Blair, Brown, Mandelson and their team are eminently businesslike. Not on the grounds of economic prudence either: the healing of "old" Labour's greatest vulnerability is Brown's and Blair's greatest achievement.

Nor are they any longer open to the charge of dogma or extremism: new Labour is beautifully focused upon the centre, middle-class, middle-brow, middle-income, middling-opinion middle Britain. Crime is falling and Jack Straw impresses; the economy is strong; foreign policy seems in safe hands; education is the Prime Minister's "passion"; and on Europe Labour boxes clever.

So why do we shudder? Something about the new Government of "New Britain" chills. What is our unease? A suspicion, I suggest, that two sections

of new Labour's considerable canon are under-developed or shrunk: that part marked "liberty" and that part marked "compassion".

Mo Mowlam denies, and an alleged witness to the incident stoutly insists, that while Leader of the Opposition, Tony Blair remarked of homelessness that there were "no votes in it". Apocryphal or true, the story struck, and still strikes, a chord. Mr Straw's attack on beggars and squeegee merchants troubled in the same way. Recent claims that Humphrey the Downing Street cat had been cast out or poisoned were only jokes, but crickets did they strike a chord? Mr Blair's aides were forced to arrange a photo-opportunity at a secret location: to prove Humphrey was alive, and to promise that Mr and Mrs Blair planned to get another cat.

Mrs Blair even issued a statement. A certain lack of humanity is a serious weakness in the new Government's image. And the other big question concerns the party's attachment to liberty. In new Labour's collective imagination, the aims of the State may have altered, but the big stick is still firmly in its hands.

"Families cannot flourish unless government plays its distinctive role", said the 1997 Labour manifesto. Particular policies — on curfews, on a drugs "ban", homework, noisy neighbours, welfare, "capping" local authorities, tagging offenders, zero tolerance, gay servicemen, disident Euro-MPs, legal aid cuts, press freedom, "fast-track" punishment for young offenders, country sports — may each be defended on their particular merits but an overall impression arises that when Labour ministers sit around the Cabinet table to decide policy on any matter, the voice crying "individual liberty" is not strong. The image of the bully — Blair's mouthpiece, Alastair Campbell, seems to some to embody it — hovers above this Government.

You can hardly scan the examples above without noting that in almost every case the official Opposition is remarkably ill-placed to criticise. The flame of individual liberty does still burn in the Conservative Party, but in recent years has seemed to flicker

rather than flare. The flame of compassion, despite John Major, was never strong. Besides, 18 years in power robs any party of much of its capacity for credible indignation.

These few years, then, could be a season in which a reinvigorated and enlarged third party could push its roots deep and its branches wide. The soil is right, the air is right, the sun's angle is right for Liberal Democracy.

So where were those 43 missing Lib Dem MPs? I can account for a few of them, including the most important. They were at Downing Street with the Prime Minister, mingling with the Labour elite at the Special Cabinet Committee, discussing the commission appointed to study a new voting system.

This is not the place to examine the prospects and likelihoods for electoral reform. Suffice it to say that, though to hopeful Liberal Democrats the sky may seem the limit, there is a ceiling of toughened glass not many inches above this new commission.

If he moves from the status quo at all, Mr Blair can only offer a referendum on a half-loaf of electoral reform. I doubt whether he is prepared to put anything in place before the next general election. Nor is it certain that he can wheel his own troops into line behind the proposals to be put in any referendum. I reckon Mr Blair has not yet decided what he will do. He is not acting in bad faith, but nor is he above stringing Mr Ashdown along until the position becomes clearer.

In the meantime, Mr Ashdown is hopelessly compromised by Mr Blair. Even their gladiators' sparring at Prime Minister's Questions is now watched with the hooded eyes of an audience suspecting a fix. Tony Blair can honestly tell Paddy Ashdown that if his parliamentary party does anything seriously to destabilise Labour, Blair's own difficult task of whipping his troops into line behind voting reform would be made impossible.

So we can know almost beyond doubt that the more vulnerable Labour look in the Commons in years ahead, the more Mr Ashdown must keep his soldiers' swords sheathed. Can he? Is the Liberal Democrat Party in the Commons, in the Lords and in the country a brown paper package, tied up with string, deliverable into Mr Blair's lap? Is the Parliamentary Labour Party, similarly trussed, deliverable into Mr Ashdown's? These questions are more open than contemporary commentary imagines.

Blair's militant tendency

Beware Trotskyists of the Labour Right, warns Ken Jackson

It is sad that new Labour is in trouble over party funding. It needn't be. But it was inevitable, given the way in which Labour fundraisers have raised their collections under the noses of millionaires. For business does not invest in Labour out of altruism. Unlike trade unions, business expects a return. It is naive to believe the opposite.

That is not to say Labour should not work in partnership with business. My union, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU), fought hard to turn Labour's clenched fist into a welcoming handshake. Partnership is the AEEU's philosophical beacon. I am glad that it is finally Labour's.

But let's not confuse partnership with fraternity. Business does not have the shared history and values enjoyed by both trade unions and the Labour Party. Business donates money to whichever party looks like winning. That is why those same businesses that now fund Labour once kept the Conservatives aloof.

Trade unions fund Labour because we know Labour is better for Britain. Unlike other donors, we do not have a list of demands, but seek to persuade Labour that our policy proposals are right for Britain. Unlike others, we do not have to bribe. So it is disappointing when trade unions are disowned.

Since 1979, unions have invested more than £200 million in Labour. My union alone has freely invested £20 million, with 700,000 members now paying the political levy. And while some business donors might not relish their help being revealed, unions are proud to do so. After all, our members vote for a political fund. We have no reason to be embarrassed by disclosure.

To look at Labour over the years, our donations might be seen as a bad investment. I would not agree. Without our money, new Labour would not be in office today. That is why we fought to lay new Labour's foundations, including one-member-one-vote and the expulsion of Militant.

But the debate over who funds the Labour Party is but one part of a wider project. A small but influential minority inside the Labour Party wants to take an axe to the party's roots. They seek a party without traditions and without foundation. Trade unions, local councillors, working people and, ultimately, party members themselves — all are superfluous to requirements. These right-wing Trotskyists, new Labour is not about the Labour Party. It is about creating a new SDP.

And the process has begun. In recent weeks, Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, took another swipe at trade unions, forgetting conveniently that he began his career at the TUC and was backed for his constituency by the GMB. Professionals have increasingly replaced ordinary working people as parliamentary candidates. Even the No 10 policy unit harbours those who once fought Labour, instead of fighting for reform from within. I am all for pluralism, but pluralism must not exclude those from ordinary backgrounds.

I want new Labour to succeed, as all sensible trade unionists do. It is not an aberration. The 1980s were the mistake in Labour's history. I support modernisation, but ordinary working people must be involved in the process. For without the broad base of union support, new Labour will become as unrepresentative now as it was in the past. We have thrown off the shackles of one minority. I do not want to have to fight another.

The idea that Labour could survive without trade union support, relying instead on state funding alone, is, again, rather naive. Union support is not simply financial. During the election, thousands of ordinary union members fought on the ground to return Labour candidates to Parliament. According to MORI, trade unionists have a 3 per cent higher turnout than the rest of the electorate. But it would be difficult to persuade my members to vote Labour if they had been kicked in the teeth by a minority who excluded their voice.

Ironically, the union link with Labour is not a burning political issue. During the general election, it did not appear on the doorsteps. It was not raised at the Labour Party conference. Support for the link is strong. At a recent event, I debated the link with a former researcher to Mr Mandelson. The audience of young moderate Labour Party activists did not agree that it is time to wave the brothers goodbye. Nor are unions across the world divorced from centre-left political parties. From the United States to Australia, trade unions both support and fund their political partners.

New Labour's anti-trade unionists, who share a complete lack of trade union experience, are misguided, self-absorbed and unrepresentative. If they do not like or understand the Labour Party, they should leave. They will not be missed. The Labour Party is not the SDP, and never will be. The offshoot failed, and new Labour would fail if it followed the same path. But I am sure the good sense of the leadership and ordinary party members will not let it happen.

The author is general secretary of the AEEU.

Boot boys

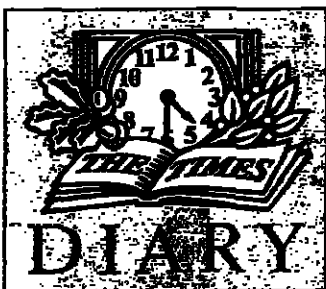
FOOTBALLERS at the House of Commons have signed a new coach: Mr Vincent Jones, the hard man of the FA Carling Premiership whose CV reads like a charge sheet. The Wimbledon midfielder has been offered the job of training Parliament FC — star player, one Tony Banks — and has graciously accepted. Vinnie, as he is known affectionately to aficionados of the once beautiful game, was approached by the Tory MP Nigel Evans to help the Commons team. "I told him the boys needed to harden up — we are a bit shy in the tackle," says Evans, a wheezy winger (he plays on the left). "We have a grudge match against the Sergeant at Arms next week. It got a bit heated last time and I thought he (Vinnie) would be the best man to prepare us." Mr Jones has had what the cheap prints might term a "colourful career". Since he was pictured gripping Paul Gascoigne's more thinking parts he has developed a full-blooded approach to the game. He has been sent off 12 times, was rebuked by the FA for making obscene gestures to fans, threw a bread roll at Gary Lineker and bit a sports reporter on the nose. Yesterday the reporter said he was suing the player for libel damages over comments made in the bloody aftermath.

Parliament FC is captained by the Labour MP Gerry Sutcliffe,



Banks and his gaffer, Vinnie

who, until Vinnie muscled in, also doubled as coach. Their record isn't bad — played six, won three — but they have lost their dazzling centre forward, Phillip Oppenheim, who has become a restaurateur since losing his seat at the last election. Obviously, their first anniversary match will be played at Chelsea Hospital.



● AMID all the coverage of the Covent Garden calamity, I was taken by the perceptive analysis of the Sun newspaper. In particular, by the byline of Brendan Murphy, billed as the journal's "opera correspondent". "I thought the editor meant Oprah Winfrey," protested Mr Murphy before making an astonishing disclosure. "I have been to the Royal Opera House on occasion. My favourite is La Bohème." Stack him.

Beefy stuff

TONY BLAIR has a penchant for Marmite sandwiches. This, I concede, is of limited global import except it proves the PM does have a feel for a Britain pre-polenta and

Caesar haircuts. Credit for this insight belongs to the winning Lauren Booth. Caesar's sister and new friend of Alan Clark, Sharon, she spoils it by calling Blair's election "the Versace revolution".

● MINISTER in cross-dressing shocker. Or so my colleagues on the cheap prints might fashion my story. Charles McCreery, Ireland's Finance Minister, was preening himself in his office for Wednesday's Budget. He felt for the suit he had recently purchased from what passes for a decent tailor in Dublin. But when he lifted the bag, rather than finding his charcoal



grey three-piece number, he discovered a long slit skirt and a white lacy body. It belonged, I am assured, to his wife, who rushed round with a quieter ensemble.

Inside job

IT WOULD bring a smile to Howard Hunt, Watergate burglar. The Foreign Office is advertising for a British locksmith. He will spend much time "overseas carrying out repairs and maintenance on a wide range of security equipment and locks". The description also states that "as a member of a small specialist team the successful candidate will be expected to work unsupervised, and produce written reports". Candidates should "show a close affiliation with the UK". No need for a clean criminal record.

● FIRST the management crisis, then the protocol crisis: the Royal Opera House had the Prince of Wales round yesterday to look over the work there. Mary Allen, chief executive, was to welcome him. But after the damning report calling for Allen to go, the Prince was met by a flunky in a hard hat. "It has been rather fluid all week," explains an insider.



IN a posthumous snub worthy of Hollywood, Bette Davis almost upstaged Ava Gardner (above) on her own birthday in her home town. The Ava Gardner Museum in North Carolina had planned to show *The Great Sinner*, to mark the 75th anniversary of the actress's birth.

But when the film arrived, it was a Bette Davis flick. *The Gardner* movie, of which there is only one copy, ended up in Hungary. The museum had to make do with Gardner's *The Hucksters*.

JASPER GERARD



FARMED OUT

A Government deaf to farmers' pain, blind to lawbreaking

When British lorry drivers were trapped by striking French hauliers earlier this year, Tony Blair flatly and rightly condemned the failure of the French Government and police to clear the country's roads for lawful trade and demanded full compensation. The Irish Government must thus have expected decisive British action from the moment, early last Monday morning, that Welsh farmers tipped 40 tonnes of Irish hamburger into the sea off Holyhead. The principle that grievances, however real, cannot justify criminal acts is just as valid in this case.

No such firmness has been displayed. Downing Street left it to the Welsh Office to "liaise" with the angry farmers; and the North Wales Police, inexcusably, allowed protesters onto the Holyhead dockside and stood by while they "inspected" and turned back more Irish loads. No wonder that the illegality has spread to Stranraer — where loads from Ulster were among those blocked — to Liverpool and now to Dover. Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, should not have waited until last night to tell farmers that they are not above the law; right from the start, farmers ought to have been told to expect arrest and stiff fines if they did anything that went beyond peaceful, unobstructive, demonstrations. Their grievances can be the subject of negotiation; their illegal conduct cannot be. If the explanation is that the Government is nervous that arrests would court public anger, given the fresh blow that its imminent ban on sales of beef on the bone has inflicted on a reeling industry, that is no excuse.

The farmers do have a point. It is not only beef producers who are having a dreadful winter. Every agricultural sector has been hit by the rise in sterling and consequent fall in the value of the "green pound", the notional unit pegged to other EU currencies in which European Union common agricultural policy subsidies are calculated. This has depressed farm incomes by between 25 and

40 per cent this year. After several highly profitable years, wealthy agro-industrialists can absorb the pain; but hill-farmers and other marginal producers, whose land barely provides a secure living at the best of times, are in genuinely grave trouble. It is no consolation to them that the roots of their predicament lie in the contorted, market-rigging machinery of the CAP. Many could go bankrupt long before the European Commission's proposals to switch from producer subsidies to direct income support — a badly needed reform which would expose rich farmers to market disciplines while freeing money for coherent rural strategies — have a chance of being agreed.

The Government should flatly refuse even to talk to them until these blockades end; but it should then listen more sympathetically than it seems disposed to do to the case for selective use of compensation. The Government has refused to draw down £980 million available to it from the EU contingency fund designed to cushion the impact of currency fluctuations. It argues that to do so would breach its spending limits, because the way that Britain's EU budget rebate is calculated means that only 29 per cent of this "free" cash and the rest would ultimately be paid by British taxpayers. But set against the £5 billion cost of handling the BSE crisis, this is small change. Beef farmers are hit from every angle; fast-track prices are on the floor, they face levies to pay for the £58 million cost of new hygiene standards and the cattle data base, and the seasonal boom in the beef market will inevitably be dented by the new ban. However slight the risk to health, the Government had no choice but to impose it; but it does have a choice about playing Scrooge with the EU fund. So long as this country has to live with a rotten EU common agricultural policy, it is unfair to British farmers to withhold the common palliative. To be deaf to distress but weak on crime is hardly enlightened leadership.

MORE FREE SCHOOLS

Watch the zones for education action

If there were any doubt that the Government was prepared to take on the educational establishment, the publication of yesterday's School Standards Bill should help to dispel it. There is much evidence of fresh thinking: the experiments of today could become the universal practice of tomorrow. And the extra accountability that the Secretary of State will impose on local education authorities (LEAs) and teacher training institutions — still the last bastion of producer interests — is excellent news for those worried about educational standards.

The Bill strengthens the powers of Ofsted, the inspection agency, against teacher training colleges. This should help to ensure that new teachers enter schools with a more rigorous approach and higher expectations of their pupils. It also allows the Education Secretary to crack down on bad LEAs, not just by taking them over, as he has done in Hackney, but also by insisting on contracting out — to the private sector or to another LEA — any service that is under par.

The logical extension of this is to give schools 100 per cent of their budgets, not 80 per cent as of now. They could then choose to buy their advice, meals, transport or any other service from the best provider available. If that happened to be the LEA, so be it. But forcing the local authorities to compete in an open market is the best way of leveraging up the quality of their services.

The only worrying aspect of this part of the Bill is the power it will give to LEAs to intervene in schools. This will be governed by a code of practice, which will allow such intervention only when a school gives cause for concern. Ministers must be strict with their drafting, for LEAs are desperate to have any chance to interfere. In some cases, they may be helpful — in others not.

TOAST TO THE NORTH

An appropriate moment to remember common bonds

The Norwegian Ambassador last night lit up the magnificent Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square, in a ceremony that since the Second World War has become one of the most celebrated and popular symbols of friendship between two countries. Every year, since its liberation from the Nazis, Norway has sent a vast Norwegian spruce to Britain as a token of thanks for British support during the years of occupation.

Although it has only four million people, Norway has long played a prominent role in British history and culture. Its kings and warriors visited our coasts; from the epic of Sir Patrick Spens to the Battle of Narvik. Britons have sailed to Nordic waters to wage battle or forge dynastic unions; and Ibsen, Munch and Grieg, three outstanding examples of Norwegian creative talent, still find acclaim in Britain. Norwegians come here in large numbers, to shop, to study and to enjoy our big cities. It sometimes seems as though half the Norwegian Cabinet has graduated from Newcastle University; and many a store in the North East looks forward to the weekend specials from Oslo.

Norwegians, however, are not the only big spenders from the north. Thousands of Icelanders are breaking all records in spenders that overshadow even the extravagance of wealthy visitors from Japan and the Middle East. Iceland's 250,000 hardy souls can now claim to spend more per head than any other

visitor to Britain. More than 50,000, twice the previous record, arrived last year to snap up bargains, enjoy our theatres and dine in our restaurants, each spending on average £99 per day — three times that spent by visitors from elsewhere.

They are doubly welcome — first because of their open-handed ways, and secondly because they bring with them some of the mystery of their faraway land of fire and ice. Britain and Iceland fought a war over cod. Since then, Iceland has grown immensely rich on the fruits of its cold seas. Iceland's standard of living, literacy rate and book production are among the highest in the world; its versatile people think nothing of holding three jobs at once. Few countries, with such bleak landscape and foul weather, can boast such good design, fine food, ancient literature and wild discs.

Other Nordic peoples flatter Britain by visiting us in winter. The festival of Finnish culture at London's Barbican, opened recently in the presence of the Queen and President Ahtisaari, is one of the largest and most exuberant displays of Finnish creative arts ever held outside Finland. That Finland chose to celebrate its 80th anniversary of independence in Britain is a mark of genuine friendship. Londoners can enjoy the exhibition, as well as the lights in Trafalgar Square. To Helsinki and Oslo, there is a warm message in return: thank you.

Anger over latest ban on beef

From Dr Mark Tremelling

Sir, I was surprised today to hear that the Government, in the interests of my own health and safety, have decided to ban me from eating my beef "off the bone" (reports and leading article, December 4). This, I believe, is due to the calculation that three out of more than two million cattle to be slaughtered next year for human consumption might have bones infected with the prion disease, BSE.

This risk is in itself remarkably small, certainly far smaller than the risk of being killed by some of the other potential hazards the Government has yet to outlaw in the interest of the nation's longevity, such as smoking, drinking alcohol or crossing the road.

Furthermore, it seems to assume that I will be far safer eating meat cut from the bone by some faceless slaughterhouse attendant than I would be had I performed the seemingly simple procedure myself. Whether or not one would have to actually devour the bones themselves or simply come into close contact with them has yet to be made clear.

Perhaps, in the light of this new information on bones as a reservoir for BSE, the ban should also be extended to encompass food products prepared for household pets, in an effort to prevent an outbreak of mad dogs, as well as Englishmen.

Yours faithfully,
MARK TREMELLING,
16 Archery Steps,
St George's Fields, W2,
December 4.

From Mr Roland Castro

Sir, The latest beef scare seems to indicate that we should be looking more closely at organic farming methods. Whilst this may be desirable in the long term, urgent measures need to be taken now. We should consider the following points:

1. Our methods of feeding cattle have come under suspicion. The Government and the public share the responsibility for pursuing cheap food, regardless of the cost to our health and the economy.
2. There seems to be a clear implication that many other countries are more successful in their raising methods. If this is so, then we should be informed of all the facts.
3. Modern methods of food production bring many other foods under suspicion. There is a lack of balance in harping so heavily on beef.

In the meantime, the Government could be more careful and constructive in its announcements: there is too much evidence of haste and panic. But if these events bring us closer to more sane and safe methods of food production, then we shall all benefit.

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND CASTRO,
3 Chester Close,
Chester Street, SW1,
December 4.

From Mr Philip Merricks

Sir, I am struck by the incongruity of tobacco, which is known to kill many thousands, being freely on sale, whilst beef on the bone, which might cause the additional death of one twentieth of one person next year, is banned. All to a background of TV and tabloid scare stories.

The Government has a clear and agreed duty to protect consumers. Which part of our staple diet should have its contents controlled — beef, cigarettes or the media?

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP MERRICKS,
The Manor,
Icklesham, Rye, East Sussex,
December 4.

From Mr David Hinks

Sir, From the figures given in your front-page report today, I calculate that one beef animal in 306,666 may have BSE, and in the time that British herds have had this problem, one person in 3,150,000 has died from the new variant of CJD.

This compares to one driver in 7,714 being involved in a road traffic accident on our diseased roads. I have only one thing to say: "Please, pass the horse-drawn sauce."

Yours faithfully,
D. HINCKS,
Normans Cross,
Forton, Chard, Somerset,
December 4.

From Mrs Susan Plummer

Sir, Whatever happened to freedom of choice? My family and I choose to eat roast rib of beef on a Sunday. It is not forced on us, it is our choice, so why not leave it to individuals to decide on their preferred cut of meat. Why should the Government tell me what I can eat?

Yours faithfully,
S. J. PLUMMER,
Lambourn Farm,
Plumpton, Sussex,
December 4.

From Mr Keith Su. Berrett

Sir, If only the British beef industry had had the foresight to sponsor Formula One.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH SU. BERRETT,
9 Reynolds Mews,
Wilmstow, Cheshire,
December 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hitting the right Royal Opera target

From Mr B. V. Strickland

Sir, A climate of crisis can be helpful to the process of introducing changes, and Mr Kaufman's report on the Royal Opera House will have been useful if it leads to calm and significant appointments. However, like you in today's leading article, I find his attacks on the recently appointed chief executive misplaced.

Surely, his real targets should have been previous ministers, Sir Angus Stirling, the previous chairman, and Sir Jeremy Isaacs, the previous chief executive, who presided over the disastrous decision-making process and presumably received knighthoods for doing so.

Knighthoods have been taken away for proven wrongdoing, so why not for incompetence?

Yours faithfully,
BEN STRICKLAND,
23 Juer Street, SW11,
December 4.

From Mrs Edwina Currie

Sir, Last night I attended a performance of Verdi's comic opera *Falstaff* by English National Opera. The Coliseum was packed, the audience enthusiastic, the music superb. The laudatory comments of your opera critic (Arts, November 17) amongst others were fully justified. Overall this was an evening of which any capital city could be proud.

School standards

From Mrs Elizabeth Bangs Jones

Sir, I was not at all surprised to read about the relative academic success of the pupils from Montserrat (leading article, December 1).

While we were teaching at a university in northern Cyprus, our oldest son went to the local Turkish infant school. It had no resources at all. Our son could speak only the most basic Turkish.

The desks were in serried ranks, the classrooms gloomy, the only posters on the wall of Atatürk and a 1950s family scene. Our son had to learn a Turkish poem by heart about twice a week and read a highly graded reading scheme (which had been in use for at least 30 years), though he did not understand most of it. He spent a lot of time copying into a handwriting book. The school day was from 8.30 to 12.30, after which he was free. Most of the school intake were from a ramshackle village near by and a conscripts' army camp.

War against polio

From the Deputy Executive Director of Unicef — UK

Sir, The logistics of the massive immunisation campaign to eradicate polio in India (report, November 28), together with the need to keep the vaccine safe from excessive heat while working in deserts and extremes of temperature, make this a staggering undertaking.

Over the last year, 145 million children under five years of age have been vaccinated against polio throughout the former Soviet Union and Central Asia, 60 million in 25 countries in Africa, 80 million in China and, in the next two months, 125 million in India. Every child missed is regarded as a lost opportunity; it is virtually a personal service for each of the 430

million children under five in the developing world. The partnership which has enabled this phenomenal campaign to be waged successfully has included the World Health Organisation, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Rotary International and the United Nations Children's Fund. This partnership has worked in the best spirit of the new direction called for in the Government White Paper, *Eliminating World Poverty*, published last month (report and leading article, November 6; letters, November 13) and shows that this approach works.

Yours faithfully,
MARIE STAUNTON,
Deputy Executive Director,
Unicef — UK,
55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,
December 2.

The ROH's acknowledged problems cannot be resolved by squeezing the ENO under the same roof — even, heaven help us, under the same management. That is plain dotty. Indeed, should Chris Smith be determined to proceed with his plan, we are left with but one conclusion: that it is he who should be left prancing about at midnight in the Forest of Arden with a pair of antlers on his head, and not good Sir John Falstaff.

Yours sincerely,
EDWINA CURRIE,
The Tower House, Farnham, Dorset,
December 4.

Although naturally we did what we could with him at home we had misgivings and, when he was the right age for junior school, year three here, we returned to England. We warned the school here about his previous education and were prepared for him to need special lessons to catch up with his peers.

How very foolish we were. He was way ahead of all his contemporaries, girls included, and has had to mark time in many lessons since. The despairing question we often ask ourselves now is obvious: if our son, clever, but not a genius, could do this in a foreign language he had by no means mastered, in a school with no resources and in half a school day, what in heaven's name had his contemporaries been doing all that time to have achieved so little?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH BANGS JONES,
Downlands,
3 Down Lane, Braunton, Devon,
timiz@lineone.net
December 1.

Matters of conscience

From Mrs Mary Beard

Sir, Lord Rix's letter today suggests that Members of Parliament have few opportunities "to speak their own minds and vote according to their principles". Meanwhile, on the front page yesterday, your report on the Government's problems with benefit cuts says that the Labour whips may "try to outflank the rebels by giving them leave from parliamentary duties to spend time in their constituencies during the crucial vote". The implication of this is that the party and not the electorate can determine whether an elected Member is present in the House to cast his or her vote on legislation.

Democracy? Yours truly,
MARY BEARD,
Dromard House,
Kesh, Co Fermanagh,
December 2.

when it comes to practical policy. I remain yours sincerely,
ALEXANDER FERGUSON
(President, Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association),
Alton Albany, Barr, Girvan, Ayrshire,
December 3.

From Mr Desmond Armour
Sir, When the miners protested against cheap coal imports destroying their industry, their skulls were broken. When farmers stop cheap Irish meat coming into the country, they have done every day this week, nobody does anything about it. Is this Government as frightened of the farmers as is the French Government?

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND ARMOUR,
2 Mundens Lane,
Alveston, Sherborne, Dorset.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER FERGUSON
(President, Blackface Sheep Breeders' Association),
Alton Albany, Barr, Girvan, Ayrshire,
December 3.

From Mr Desmond Armour
Sir, When the miners protested against cheap coal imports destroying their industry, their skulls were broken. When farmers stop cheap Irish meat coming into the country, they have done every day this week, nobody does anything about it. Is this Government as frightened of the farmers as is the French Government?

Yours faithfully,
DESMOND ARMOUR,
2 Mundens Lane,
Alveston, Sherborne, Dorset.

The voyage of Jacob of Ancona

From Mr David Selbourne

Sir, Dr David Abulafia ("An amazing journey — or just a hoax?", December 1) thinks Jacob of Ancona is a "Jewish Gulliver" rather than a Jewish Marco Polo. But like many scholars who have written on my translation of *The City of Light*, he makes a number of errors in his account of the work.

Thus he is mistaken in his assertion that Venice had "suppressed" voyages from Ancona to the ports of the East in 1270, when Jacob set sail. It is true that there was rivalry and hostility between the two Adriatic port cities for control of the Adriatic and Byzantine trade. J. F. Leonhard, in his detailed study of mercantile Ancona in the Middle Ages (*Ancona nel basso Medio Evo*, Ancona, 1902), describes several unsuccessful attempts by the Venetians to blockade the port between 1228 and 1231. And after Jacob's return to Ancona (in 1273) there were several sea battles between Venice and Ancona until the peace treaty signed between them in 1281.

But notwithstanding the intermittent conflicts, the 13th century was a period of commercial prosperity for the city of Ancona, derived from both local and long-distance trade, and a voyage such as Jacob's made during the interregnum in hostilities between the cities is entirely plausible. Far from its trade being "suppressed", Ancona was an active and flourishing port in 1270.

San Giovanni d'Acetri (Acetri) had not been "flattened" at the time of Jacob's arrival. It had been damaged, not flattened, 15 years earlier, as a result of conflicts between Venetians and Genoese. But by Jacob's arrival in May 1270, he reports the resumption of friendly relations there between Italian merchants hailing from different cities, and I see no reason to doubt him.

Finally, giving an inaccurate and highly-coloured summary of my translation, Dr Abulafia states — to whom Jacob makes several references — "can easily be shown to be a figment of the imagination". Unfortunately he does not furnish any real evidence for his assertion. It will be up to scholars of medieval Aragon to explore this question further.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SELBOURNE,
C. P. 152,
61029 Urbino (PS), Italy,
December 1.

Wolsey invoked

From the Lord Chancellor

Sir, Since Monday, December 1, you have published a number of articles referring to me and Cardinal Wolsey. Other newspapers have followed your lead. Perhaps I could remind your readers that when I compared myself to Wolsey in a speech to the Political Committee of the Reform Club on October 21 I was making a joke. I gave the text of this speech, including all its jokes, to your Legal Correspondent when I was interviewed by her on November 4.

The context was a list of previous Lord Chancellors who had all exercised broad influence over government policy. The specific joke about Cardinal Wolsey was that he is widely credited with the authorship of the original Star Chamber, the common nickname of a Cabinet committee which I chair today.

In an otherwise fair and balanced first leader on Monday, you relied on the Cardinal Wolsey comparison to say that I am "not a man burdened with false humility" and I have "something still to learn about hubris". I am sorry that my sense of humour was not appreciated and has been subsequently misinterpreted.

Yours sincerely,
IRVINE OF LAIRG,
House of Lords,
December 4.

Tally ho!

From Rear-Admiral Peter Marsden

Sir, You can always tell a cavalryman: but you cannot tell him much. However, may I be so bold as to tell the gallant Field Marshal (letter, November 29) that I can well understand why UK cavalrymen, bored to *extremis* by long years stationed in a not wholly welcoming allied country, should have recourse to exercising themselves by chasing subalterns across the German plains on courses conjured up with customary Camberley cunning.

However, for those of us who are opposing Michael Foster's Bill with intense fervour, it is the sight and sound of hounds in full cry after their quarry, checking to reacquire the scent, perhaps temporarily confused by a cunning fresh hare or fox taking up the cause and then refining the original line, which entices us to turn out week after week in all weathers.

Would one ever want to hunt a cavalryman twice?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MARSDEN,
Lucerne, St Catherine's Road,
Niton Undercliff,
Nr Ventnor, Isle of Wight,
December 1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

GLYN DEARMAN

Glyn Dearman, BBC radio drama producer, died on November 30 following a fall at his London home aged 57. He was born on December 30, 1939.

Glyn Dearman was a fearless and enthusiastic radio drama producer, in an association with the BBC which had, including his acting career, lasted for more than 45 years. In that time he had presided over work ranging from popular serials to classical drama, notably his Shakespeare productions with Kenneth Branagh, in which the nonagenarian Sir John Gielgud participated.

As a child actor he had parts in a number of *Children's Hour* productions; he had started as Jennings in the serial *Jennings at School*, which ran for a number of years and was wildly popular with young and old. At the same time as working hard on radio he was appearing in several British films. In 1951 he featured as Tiny Tim in *Alastair Sim's Scrooge* (in the film of that title) and as Little Arthur in *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, giving suitably tear-jerking performances in both these roles.

This early stardom was slightly at odds with a family background which included three aunts who had married into the peerage. They were three of the six daughters of his grandmother, Kate Meyrick, who had taken to running nightclubs in the 1920s in order to pay for their education. Her clubs, especially the "43" in Gerrard Street, were patronised by the then Prince of Wales, King Carol of Romania, Noël Coward and other members of high society.

He much admired his grandmother, and it is possible that his flair for production and for casting was due to her example, since he always maintained that a good production was rather like giving a good party. She would certainly have approved of many of his star-filled casts of later

years, one of which included the present Prince of Wales, whom he persuaded to play Prince Hal to Sir Robert Stephens's Falstaff in a 1994 recording of Shakespearean excerpts issued on cassette and CD as *The Prince's Choice*.

Once his voice had broken, Dearman remained an actor and concentrated on radio. He joined the BBC Drama Repertory Company and had a continuing role in the popular daily soap opera *Mrs Dale's Diary*. Little did he realise then that it would fall to his lot to terminate this long-running serial in 1969, after it had changed its name to *The Dales* and after Jesse Matthews, with whom he had an excellent, mutually admiring rapport, had taken over the part of Mrs Dale. He had earlier become a producer of the programme, and by the time of its demise had been its editor-in-chief for more than two years.

He immediately moved on to run its replacement as a daily soap opera, *Wagoners' Walk*. So successful was this programme that it came to beat *The Archers* in the ratings charts, and much credit for this must go to Dearman, his organisational skills and his establishment of a brilliant team of writers and actors.

Six years under the daily pressure of soap operas is a gruelling long time, and it was with some relief that he moved into the mainstream of radio drama production. Here he was able to exploit his talents for light comedy, his technical expertise, his feeling for music, and his ear for casting as well as his flair for publicity. He recognised the value of star-casting and was never afraid to work with the biggest names in the business. There are few in the current theatrical aristocracy who have not worked with him, and all would acknowledge their enjoyment of the experience. He worked hard with his actors but always made the process fun.

He won national and international awards for his work. Among prize-winning productions were *Gormenghast* by



Mervyn Peake starring the singer Sting; *Come Unto These Yellow Sands* by Angela Carter (he also directed her *Company of Wolves*, which was later made into a full-length feature film); and an experimental piece of radio drama by the actor Andrew Sachs called *The Revenge*.

This was a play without words, and since it needed no translation it is not surprising that this prize-winning production was aired by most of the world's leading broadcasting organisations. He daintily cast John Osborne and Jill Bennett, in their happier married days, in three

plays by Feydeau; he was responsible for a masterly production of Sandy Wilson's *Valmouth* starring Penelope Fielding and Elisabeth Welch; and a serialisation of Jeffrey Archer's *Not a Penny More*. Not a Penny Less in 1980, so boosting sales of the original novel that it set its author well

on the road to fortune, if not to genuine literary fame. *Svengeff*, *Maigret*, *Dracula*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Claudius*, *Frankenstein*, were all familiar characters to him and were perfectly cast by him.

In more recent years he worked with Kenneth Branagh and his Renaissance Theatre Company on radio productions of *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *King Lear* with Sir John Gielgud who was 90 at the time of the recording in the title role (ten years too old for the part, as the theatrical knight remarked).

These productions were also issued on cassette and CD, but too much of a radio producer's work is ephemeral and rests in memory or locked in the archive at Broadcasting House, unlikely ever to be heard again, especially after April next year, when few plays transmitted will be of a duration longer than 60 minutes. Disenchanted by what he saw as having become a joyless institution which was uninterested in people and the creative spirit, he took early retirement from the BBC in 1995 and set up his own independent audio company, Arcadia.

It is the big names and the well-known works which are remembered, but Glyn Dearman nurtured a great deal of new writing talent and gave employment to many excellent actors who do not necessarily have household names. Many of these artists became good friends and returned the love, encouragement and admiration he gave them. He needed this, for public success did not make for a happy private life. This had more than its due share of the darkness of the soul and a painful loneliness in the midst of a crowd of friends. His was an outgoing life and he found it easier to give than to receive.

Glyn Dearman married, in 1961, Susan MacDonald, granddaughter of the former Labour Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald. The marriage was dissolved in 1967. There were no children.

SIR JOHN COULSON

Sir John Coulson, KCMG, Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association (Efta) 1965-72, died on November 15 aged 88. He was born on September 13, 1909.

AS A clerk in the Foreign Office, John Coulson was responsible for sending off the telegram which declared war on Hitler in 1939. It was a momentous start to an eventful war for Coulson, then a rising young star in Whitehall. After spells in the Ministry of Economic Warfare and the War Cabinet Office, he returned to the Foreign Office as deputy to Gladwyn Jebb in the Department for Postwar Reconstruction, with special responsibility for economic matters. During the war he also travelled in the entourage of the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, to several of the big three-power conferences, including those in Moscow, Cairo and Potsdam.

Newly appointed CMG at the astonishingly early age of 37, Coulson was posted to Paris in 1946, then to New York as deputy head of Britain's delegation to the UN. He headed the economic affairs department of the Foreign Office from 1952 to 1955, before returning to the United States as minister in the Embassy in Washington.

The Suez crisis then provided him with one of the hardest tests of his career. Left in charge at the British Embassy in Washington during an interregnum between the departure of one Ambassador, Sir Roger Makins, and the arrival of his successor, Sir Harold Caccia, Coulson was summoned to the White House by President Eisenhower to explain British policy — which was no clearer to him than to the President. There followed equally difficult dialogues with the hostile American Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles. But Coulson acquitted himself well and was advanced to KCMG at the remarkably early age of 48.

He returned to Britain as assistant to the Paymaster General, Reginald Maudling, charged with the impossible task of negotiating a free trade area within Europe, at a time when Whitehall was scared that Britain was in danger of being left behind by the formation of the Common Market. Various options were being explored to create new trading links with the original six Common Market powers, and Coulson toured European capitals trying to sell them the wider British proposals, which were eventually thrown out by the French. In the end, the Government had to be content with an exclusive European Free Trade Association.

ation, a grouping known as the "outer seven", whose founder members were the "little six" less influential European nation states: Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, plus, of course, the UK. On Coulson's career, however, the creation of Efta was to have a decisive influence.

In 1960, after Maudling's move to be President of the Board of Trade, he left the Paymaster General's office for Stockholm as British Ambassador, returning three years later as a deputy under-secretary, in charge of administration — at a time when the Foreign Office was preparing for its eventual merger, in 1967, with the Commonwealth Relations Office. In 1965 he was himself preparing to take over as Britain's envoy in Madrid — and had already started to learn Spanish — when a plea came from Efta.

The organisation was in sudden need of a new Secretary-General, and its Scandinavian member countries were unanimous in calling for Coulson. As well as having been prominent in the negotiations which had established the free trade area, he had made a good impression during his three years in Stockholm. Yielding to persuasion, he left the Foreign Office to take over the Efta office in Geneva.

Seven years later, on the eve of Britain's long-delayed entry into the EEC (with Denmark) departure from Efta, he retired. His last assignment as Secretary-General had been to seek assurances that the interests of those still in Efta would be protected.

John Eltringham Coulson was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, the son of a coal industry executive. He won a scholarship to Rugby, where he was head of his house, and another scholarship to Corpus Christi, Cambridge, where he took a double first in classics. The college made him an honorary fellow in 1975. He was also a gifted linguist, adding Russian, Swedish and Romanian to the French and German demanded by the Diplomatic Service.

Coulson was a slightly built and unassuming man, whose quiet dry sense of humour made him popular with subordinates. On retiring he accepted several directorships, two of them with Swedish companies, but otherwise busied himself with voluntary work. He was for seven years president of the Hampshire branch of the Red Cross. When off-duty he was happiest fly-fishing for trout on the Itchen.

In 1944 he married his wife Mavis, who had worked for him as a secretary at the Foreign Office. She and their two sons survive him.



WILLIAM PERRIE

William Perrie, prison governor, died on November 15 aged 79. He was born on April 11, 1918.

IN A career spanning more than 30 years, William Perrie was one of the leading prison governors in the country. For 16 years, between 1962 and 1978, he was in charge of four different prisons, including three of the most difficult. His time as a governor coincided with three decades of tribulation and disaster for the Prison Service.

A series of high-profile escapes in the mid 1960s culminated

in that of George Blake from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966. Lord Mountbatten's subsequent inquiry eventually led to the setting-up of a number of high-security prisons, with dog patrols, closed-circuit television surveillance and multiple barriers to escape. These "dispersal prisons" — so called because the highest risk prisoners were dispersed among them — included Hull Prison, to which Perrie was posted in 1968.

He was so successful at Hull that he was promoted to the top class of governor and given charge of the new prison at Long Lartin, near Worces-

ter, in 1970. He was governor there for five distinguished years.

In 1975 Birmingham's Winson Green Prison became a focus of controversy. Following the arrest of those charged with the Birmingham pub bombings, serious allegations were made about their treatment by the police and prison warders.

Because of his reputation, Perrie was selected by the Prison Service to take on this thankless assignment. His guidance helped to maintain morale through the trial of some of the staff (who were eventually acquitted), and then laid the foundations for a recovery before his retirement in 1978.

Bill Perrie — as he was always known — was a big, robust man, keen on jogging every day, and on George Blake provided a complex challenge (though Blake escaped after only 5½ years). Seeking to balance security with the individuals' needs, Perrie gradually found a workable solution. He was prepared to discuss the prisoners' particular problems and offer them a little humane flexibility, in matters such as personal possessions and dress.

The very long sentences first imposed on the notorious train robbers and on George Blake provided a complex challenge (though Blake escaped after only 5½ years). Seeking to balance security with the individuals' needs, Perrie gradually found a workable solution. He was prepared to discuss the prisoners' particular problems and offer them a little humane flexibility, in matters such as personal possessions and dress.

As a result of this, Perrie was well respected by both prisoners and staff, which was a considerable achievement at a time of inmate disturbances and staff industrial action. Such was his standing that after his retirement an annual lecture was established and named after him. In 1993 the Perrie Lecture was given by the then Shadow Home Secretary, Tony Blair.

William Perrie was born in Larkhall, Lanarkshire, and left school at 15. He worked as a painter and decorator until the outbreak of war, when he joined the Lowland Division. He served with the Reconnaissance Corps, rising to be a sergeant major and being mentioned in dispatches.

After the war he joined the Prison Service as an officer at Norwich Prison, soon moving to Holesley Bay Borstal. His ability, especially with young offenders, soon caught the eye of the Prison Commissioners, and he was selected for promotion to assistant governor. He served at Camp Hill, Leyhill and Wakefield — working largely with young offenders — before being posted as deputy governor to Cardiff Prison from 1958 to 1960.

This was followed by a spell in charge of the boys' prison at Wormwood Scrubs before he went back to South Wales as Governor of Swansea Prison in 1962. Three years later he was commended in an appeal judgment by the Lord Chief Justice for his efforts with, and kindness towards, a very inadequate prisoner. That incident typifies Bill Perrie's work.

He is survived by his wife, Olive, and his son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

UK HOLIDAYS
BIRMINGHAM: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

WINTER SPORTS
FRENCH ALPS: Chamonix, Courmayeur
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES
ORIGINAL: Charles, Emma, etc.
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

GIFTS
BIRMINGHAM: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLATSHARE
BIRMINGHAM: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

ANNOUNCEMENTS
BIRMINGHAM: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

ANNOUNCEMENTS
BIRMINGHAM: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE"
Start the Festive Season in The Times
on 22nd December 1997 by sending colleagues,
clients, friends, family and loved ones that
Special Christmas Greeting and Happiness for
the New Year.
For further information
or to reserve your space
please telephone
0171 481 1982
or Fax: 0171 481 9313.

SITUATIONS WANTED
CHAMONIX with own Mountain
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONTINENTAL: Bookings for 1998
Tel: 0121 451 451
2004 Tel: 0121 451 451

2
TODAY



Low-key bank builds bridges in markets as EMU approaches
PAGE 33



**Not always a happy
country life
for schoolchildren
PAGE 43**



England look to
Smithies for
World Cup lead
PAGES 48-56

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
54, 55**

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

BUSINESS TODAY

On the stock market, the FTSE 100 index closed 111.6 points higher at 5,082.3, buoyed by signs that institutions are ploughing cash into UK shares before end-of-the-year

B. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

compensation it was given Morecambe Bay, the jewel in the crown of British Gas's exploration arm.

Centrica shares rose 2½p to 92½p yesterday.

CREATIVE

call us now on 0800 34 35 36



**The Royal Bank
of Scotland**

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Registered Office: 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YS. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.
Remitted by IMRO, SFA and Financial Institutions Authority.

GrandMet calls time with £147m deck-clearance

By DOMINIC WALSH

A DECK-CLEARING exercise ahead of its £23 billion merger with Guinness knocked £147 million off annual profits at Grand Metropolitan, the Burger King to Smirnoff vodka group.

Provisions relating to the sale of such businesses as the Intrepreneur Pub Company, Burger King's French operation and Pillsbury's Aunt Nel-

lie's Kitchens restricted the company to pre-tax profits of £834 million in the year to September 30. Excluding exceptional items, the figure was in line with analysts' expectations, at £981 million, a 1.7 per cent increase.

Sterling's strength wiped £72 million from pre-tax profits, although hedging of its US exposure reduced the net impact by £14 million. At level exchange rates pre-tax profits were 9 per cent ahead. Turnover dipped

from £8.97 billion to £8.17 billion. Admitting to a degree of nostalgia as he brought down the curtain on the company's 43-year existence, George Bull, chairman, said: "As it departs the world, GrandMet is in good shape. All the bits and pieces we needed to do have been done, profits are excellent and we're very excited."

IDV, the group's spirits division, lifted operating profits 6 per cent in local currency terms to £460 million.

Ironically, the best performing of its key brands was Bombay gin, which is expected to be sold to satisfy US regulators over the merger. The brand saw volume growth of 28 per cent compared with 1 per cent for Smirnoff. Overall volumes were "well ahead of the game", up 2 per cent, after a 6 per cent rise in marketing spend to £420 million.

Pillsbury, the US food business, improved profits 12 per cent to £457 million, while Burger King was up 8 per cent, at £170 million.

John McGrath, chief executive, said the creation of Diageo, to be completed in two weeks, would prompt rivals to consider consolidation. Earnings per share, excluding exceptional items, rose 0.6 per cent to 31.2p, but as a result of the merger there is no final dividend. Diageo shareholders will receive a 12.5p interim dividend in April.

GEC starts shake-up with £4bn flotation

By ADAM JONES

THE restructuring of GEC went into full swing yesterday with the announcement of the flotation of GEC Alsthom and a £300 million share buyback.

GEC shares rose 13.5p to 403.5p, banishing some of the negative sentiment that followed its failure to buy the defence electronics arm of Siemens and its exclusion from the restructuring of Thomson, the French defence group.

The flotation of GEC Alsthom, its power engineering and transportation joint venture with Alcatel Alsthom of France, is scheduled for the first six months of 1998. Both GEC and Alcatel will sell 26 per cent, retaining 24 per cent each for at least a year after flotation.

Analysts were valuing GEC Alsthom, which will be known as Alsthom when it becomes a listed French company, at £3.5 to £4 billion, suggesting that

GEC may receive about £875 million after tax from the sale. George Simpson, GEC managing director, said GEC has been in talks with a number of other companies about defence industry consolidation in Europe, including British Aerospace, but he said there was no particular proposals discussed.

Analysts said GEC continued to dismiss speculation of a merger with British Aerospace. Mr Simpson said the recent amalgamation of French defence interests was not necessarily a precursor to UK companies banding together.

The principle of a share buyback was authorised at the annual meeting in September. GEC said yesterday that up to £300 million of ordinary shares would be bought through SBC Warburg Dillon Read. The board will consider further repurchase programmes if appropriate.

Mr Simpson announced a 9 per cent rise in underlying sales, excluding currency effects, in the six months to September 30. Turnover rose to £5.1 billion. Profits before tax and exceptional items rose from £421 million to £442 million. This would have been £24 million higher at constant exchange rates. The company said the high underlying rate of growth may not be sustained in the second half.

Operating profits at GEC-Marconi rose 24 per cent when the effect of currency and acquisition was stripped out, driven by volume increases. On the same basis, the industrial group rose 21 per cent and GEC Alsthom 22 per cent. Operating profits for GEC's share of GPT, the telecommunications joint venture with Siemens of Germany, fell 1 per cent, however, as price falls wiped out volume growth.

Tempus, page 32



Frank Sytner, whose stake in the motor dealer will be worth £16.7 million after the stock market flotation

Sytner flotation seeks £4m cash

FRANK SYTNER, chairman of Sytner, is raising around £4 million cash from the flotation of the motor dealer and will continue to hold a stake of 33 per cent of the company, worth £16.7 million at the placing price of 230p a share. This price

values the company at £50 million and it is floating on a prospective multiple of 11 times 1997 earnings.

Of the £23.1 million raised in the flotation, £16.9 million will go into the company. Share dealings are expected

from December 11. Sytner represents BMW, Chrysler, Jeep, Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, Volkswagen, Ferrari, Porsche and Daihatsu and is the sole importer of the BMW Alpina. It is the UK's largest dealer in new and used cars.

GUS ahead despite fall in catalogues

By FRASER NELSON

GREAT Universal Stores has admitted that it may have been overzealous in upgrading the service for its Kays catalogue after watching the division's operating profit fall 7 per cent at the halfway stage.

The retailer, which has added 24-hour call centres and next-day courier service for its catalogue orders, said the extra investment may be scaled back from the current level — understood to be more than £300,000 a week.

The catalogue division, whose titles include Choices, Marshall Ward and Disney, saw its operating profit drop to £38.5 million (£41.3 million) in the six months to September 30, although sales rose by 6.5 per cent to £704 million.

City analysts took heart from the revenue increase, and the shares rose 25p to 710p.

The company has also agreed to buy six catalogue titles from the Burton Group for £20 million, including Innovations. Overall pre-tax profits were £254 million (£237 million) for the half-year. Earnings were 17.3p (£15.6p) a share.

Lord Wolfson, chairman, said second-half trading was in line with the first six months. The interim dividend rises to 6p (5.5p), and is due on February 27.

Tempus, page 32

Deloitte left further behind bigger rivals

By ROBERT BRUCE

DELOITTE & TOUCHE, the smallest of the Big Six accounting firms and one of the two firms to eschew the current round of mergers, has released figures showing that its growth rate is not matching the rest of the top firms.

Worldwide the firm reported record revenues up 14 per cent to \$7.4 billion (about £4.4 billion) and in the UK the growth rate was 10.4 per cent with fees up to £442.4 million. Ed Kanas, the firm's worldwide chairman, said the results "confirm that we have the momentum to remain successful, attract the best people, and thrive in today's marketplace".

However, yesterday's figures suggest Deloitte is losing ground to its bigger rivals. Ernst & Young recently reported UK fee income up 15 per cent, while Andersen Worldwide, the only other firm not to go for a merger, reported an increase in global revenues of 25 per cent.

Deloitte said that consulting revenues grew 15.5 per cent, while the accounting practice lifted revenue 9.4 per cent. But the figures must be a worry. If the mergers planned by Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand and by KPMG and Ernst & Young are approved, Deloitte would be last and going backwards in a market with only four significant players.

Yorkshire Electricity pair to go

THE chief executive and finance director of Yorkshire Electricity are to leave the company less than a year after it was taken over by American Electric Power and New Century Energies, a US consortium.

Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive, and Tony Coleman are to leave at the end of the year. Mr Chatwin, whose last recorded salary was £207,000, and Mr Coleman, who was last paid £140,000, are likely to leave on substantial severance terms. Graham Hall, group operations director, will be chief executive.

Lazard fined

Lazard Freres, the US investment bank, has agreed to pay \$12 million (about £7.16 million) in fines and restitution to settle federal charges that the brokerage defrauded investors on the sale of \$683 million in municipal bonds.

UK preferred

THE UK has maintained its record as the European country attracting the largest number of foreign investment projects, Ernst & Young's European Investment Monitor states.

Drug move

Chiroscience has submitted its application for European marketing approval of levobupivacaine, the anaesthetic.

Britannia Life to cut jobs with phasing out of IFAs

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MORE than 400 jobs are to go at Britannia's life insurance operation as the building society withdraws from selling products through independent financial advisers and concentrates instead on branch distribution. The figure represents half the current workforce at the head office in Glasgow and 11 branches.

The move will mean the permanent loss of 240 jobs and the phasing out of a further 180 positions. Britannia Life, which has around 750,000 policies in force, will

withdraw from the independent financial adviser (IFA) market for new business with effect from December 12. In future life and pensions products will be solely distributed through its branch network.

John Heaps, chief executive, said: "While Britannia Life has been successful in recent years in growing in the IFA market, we do not believe that we will be able to compete profitably in the long term." The group is now focusing on a single distribution channel — bancassurance. Britannia investment and fund managers in Glasgow will continue to operate in the IFA market and are not affected by the restructuring.

The move follows a major review of the life business's distribution strategy, lasting almost a year. The group said it will lead to around 160 permanent job losses in Britannia Life's UK sales network. An additional 80 jobs will be lost at head office in Glasgow by the end of March 1998, and a further 180 jobs will be phased out by the end of 1999.

Stakis poised to lavish £85m on convention hotel

By DOMINIC WALSH

STAKIS, the hotel and casino group, will next month press the start-button for an £85 million extension of the London Metropole Hotel, which will take it to 1,000 bedrooms and triple its conference capacity.

David Michels, chief executive, said that the project would turn the Metropole into "the largest convention hotel in Europe bar none". Its position would be further enhanced by the scheduled completion next year of the Heathrow Express railway

link into the nearby Paddington station.

The £327 million acquisition of Metropole Hotels a year ago helped Stakis to achieve an 82 per cent jump in profits before tax and exceptional items, to £55.9 million, in the year to September 28 on turnover 49 per cent better, at £307 million. Earnings per share reached 6.58p (5.44p) and a final dividend of 1.45p, to be paid on April 7, makes 2.5p (2.15p).

Metropole boosted hotel division profits by 86 per cent, to £74.9 million, while casinos

dropped slightly to £7.8 million after the sale of the Barracuda in London. The LivingWell health club business, acquired in May, contributed profits of £1.6 million. Mr Michels said that, of the eight three-star hotels put up for sale in May, five were in solicitors' hands at a combined sale price of about £30 million. The other three would probably be kept and upgraded to four-star standard.

Tempus, page 32
City Diary, page 33

STAKIS

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.39	2.42
Austria	21.91	20.25
Belgium	64.49	60.53
Canada	2.87	2.81
Cyprus	0.913	0.841
Denmark	11.80	11.01
Finland	6.53	6.70
France	10.4	9.83
Germany	9.15	2.85
Greece	492	453
Hong Kong	12.80	12.80
Ireland	1.92	1.19
Israel	0.30	0.35
Italy	20.88	20.51
Japan	221.23	214.30
Malta	0.686	0.627
Netherlands	3.58	3.25
New Zealand	2.83	2.63
Norway	11.70	11.70
Portugal	316.03	284.00
Spain	8.86	8.30
Sweden	262.29	243.50
Switzerland	13.98	12.78
Turkey	337.97	317.69
USA	1.785	1.840

Notes: For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Free IT manager with every PC.

Invest in the brilliant new HP Brio PC and it's almost like having your own fully trained IT expert 'on-site'. Without the expense of hiring one! Packed with the latest features, it helps you get the most from your PCs, printers and other peripherals. The HP Welcome Center helps you start and run your HP Brio PC, whilst the HP Network Center helps you share files, printers, CD-ROM drives and modems. Available now with 15" monitor at a great price.

HP Brio 8012 PC

Pentium® processor with MMX technology 166 MHz, 16 MB RAM, 2.1 GB HDD, 256 KB cache. INCLUDES 15" MONITOR.

£769 **£904**
EXC VAT INC VAT

HP Brio 8034 PC

Pentium® processor with MMX technology 200 MHz, 16 MB RAM, 2.1 GB HDD, 256 KB cache, 1MB video, 16 X CD-ROM and MS Word 97. INCLUDES 15" MONITOR.

£999 **£1,174**
EXC VAT INC VAT

To order or for details of your nearest HP Office Centre, visit www.hpbrio-online.com or call **0800 597 7400**

As the stock market bounds upwards, spare a thought for those bemused investment managers who turned bearish months, and even years, ago. Their customers are beginning to turn nasty. Witness the decision of Surrey County Council to seek new handlers for its £750 million pension fund.

Surrey chose to parcel out its business among three managers who would all have claimed to be adopting the value approach to fund management, but who have conspicuously failed to deliver it to this client.

The trio of Mercury Asset Management, Gartmore and PDM have, according to the disgruntled client, failed to outperform the CAPS median by 1 per cent over five years.

Both Gartmore and Mercury have acknowledged that they have been misjudging the market and have tweaked their stance and the way they apply it. Tony Dye and his colleagues at PDM have remained resolutely convinced of the logic of their arguments and waited for the market to collapse — spectators at the party where others have been having a high time.

Pension fund trustees are generally a cautious bunch, and they tend to the view that if they put their trust in the giants of the industry they cannot be blamed for the results. Just to double bank on this, they generally pay a consultancy for reassurance on this point, and it is forthcoming

Fund managers in a Surrey state

for exactly the same safety-first reasons. But as the under-performance drags on, some trustees will begin to feel that they have a duty to look elsewhere, just as Surrey is doing.

Losing this little bit of business is not going to concern Mercury overly, although it may cause a little shiver amongst the thunderers at Merrill Lynch, which has just paid £3 billion for the fund manager. And Gartmore's parent, National Westminster, will not be pleased to see business drifting away after the costly exodus it has just had to make from the equities business.

But the disquiet must be greatest at UBS, the Swiss parent of PDM. The bank has remained a stoically supportive, if relatively silent, backer of Mr Dye as his determined pessimism has seen his clients lose money. As the stock market shrugs off even the dire goings-on in the Far East, that stoicism will be coming under new pressure.

The strategy of seeking out undervalued stocks makes sense and, as Mr Dye knows only too well, it requires the nerve to take a long-term view. But clients such as Surrey would contend that five years is a reasonably

long term over which to measure performance, and the PDM strategy has not delivered.

As GEC and Reuters decide to shower cash upon their shareholders, sending their stock soaring in response, too many of the companies where PDM spotted value are looking distinctly miserable. The only way that Laura Ashley, for instance, is going to provide value now is for those who can pick up a bargain in the stores.

Feel at liberty to vote for Cassidy

The struggle to save Denis Cassidy's job as chairman of Liberty is beginning to look more of a close call than seemed possible. With the family shareholders divided, next Thursday's extraordinary meeting shows encouraging signs of being a lively affair.

With 47 per cent of the votes

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor



already tucked away, the strange pairing of Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty and Brian Myerson remains favourite to have its way and to force Mr Cassidy's departure. But it is just about possible to see this contest as carefully balanced. After detailed scrutiny of its share register, Liberty reckons 31 per of its shares is in the hands of institutions. Another 16 per cent is owned by the 30 or so family members who do not belong to the Stewart-Liberty Five. If the institutions and the outer family all back the board, the score is 47 all and Mr Cassidy's fate lies with the private shareholders who own the balance of 6 per cent.

One must not get carried away. Mr Cassidy still has a long way to go even on his own claim that he has the declared support of holders of 34 per cent of the company. Moreover, that claim is not backed up by hard numbers; the promised support from institutions may well fail to

materialise.

Yet on the merits of the arguments, Mr Cassidy deserves to win. None of those involved seem to doubt that extensive redevelopment is needed at Liberty's neo-Tudor store. Mr Myerson has complained about the £43 million cost — a staggering sum, but one with which he had few quibbles a few months ago. Mr Myerson's principle objection to Mr Cassidy seems to be his unwillingness to take up Mr M's questionable proposals. Liberty's shares have been sold by performers but it is unfair to lay that at the door of Mr Cassidy. The store's results have shown some signs of recovery, but in truth it is still too early to judge the success of the changes he has overseen.

Why on earth Mrs Stewart-Liberty is working with Mr Myerson remains unfathomable. Mr Myerson has had his money tied up a long time and no doubt wants a profitable exit.

That aim is unlikely to sit easily with any intention she may have to re-instate her stepsons as the management of Liberty.

Mr Cassidy still looks likely to lose his job. But while Mr Myerson may have the weight of money on his side, Mr Cassidy has the force of the arguments. Undecided investors should give their chairman their backing.

America's new Asian model

Triumphalist Western reactions to the crisis among Asia's tiger economies are increasingly bearing out the conspiracy theories of Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad. In America's geopolitics, the rise of Asian economies had become a threat to Western ascendancy, rather than a boost to global living standards.

Even Asian propagandists would, however, be hard put to out-do Mickey Kantor, who was America's chief brinkman in the last endless round of trade talks. Speaking at Wednesday's CBI dinner, the former US Commerce Secretary said the troubles of the tiger economies offered a golden opportunity for the West

to reassert its commercial interests. When countries seek help from the International Monetary Fund, Europe and America should use the IMF as a battering ram to gain advantage.

The agenda includes deregulation, privatisation, the break-up of conglomerates plus "accountability and transparency", which embrace banning non-tariff barriers, opening banking to Western entry and clamping down on business/government links, which breed corruption.

Mr Kantor, though out of office, echoes views emanating from the IMF to the Federal Reserve. America only tolerated the Asian model, he claims, because of the Cold War. In the economic cold war, yesterday's friends are targets. The next trade round, he says, should start with Europe and North America ganging up on Japan, then force a four-way fix on everyone else.

One Lord a leaping

NO DOUBT he took an enormous amount of persuading, but Lord Hanson has graciously agreed not to desert his opportunistic company, now a much-reduced version of the conglomerate. The £25,000-a-year salary he will receive as chairman emeritus can hardly have been the deciding factor but the sprightly peer will surely insist on earning his pay. If the management think they are getting a mere figurehead, they could be surprised.

Reuters to return £1.5bn to investors

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

REUTERS, the international news and information group, yesterday announced a capital restructuring designed to return £1.5 billion in excess capital to shareholders.

The move was welcomed in the City and Reuters shares rose 30½p to 710p, a 4.5 per cent increase in value compared with a 2.5 per cent rise in the stock market overall.

Reuters made clear that it saw its existing markets, primarily the different segments of the wholesale finance industry worldwide, as being already "sufficiently broad and demanding" and that it intended to maintain its present focused approach.

Rob Rowley, finance director, said the restructuring, under which a new holding company called Reuters Group will acquire Reuters Holdings, was in effect a way of bringing forward the abolition of ACT which would have otherwise made such a distribution impractical.

Mr Rowley said: "Reuters is not a mega-acquisition com-

pany. It's about understanding technology and applying it." The company expands mainly through organic growth and spends over £500 million a year on capital expenditure and research and development.

Under the plan, ordinary shareholders will receive 13 shares in Reuters Group plus £13.60 in cash for every 15 shares held. American depositary share holders will receive 13 new ADS plus the US dollar equivalent of £13.60 in cash for every 15 ADS held.

At the end of June Reuters had net cash of over £1.2 billion in spite of spending £1.27 billion on capital equipment and acquisitions in the three years to the end of 1996.

At the end of the exercise Reuters will have debt of around £200 million. Reuters said shareholder value would be enhanced through a reduction in Reuters cost of capital.

The restructuring will involve a one-off charge of about £30 million, which will be taken against 1997 earnings.

Harvest hits Christian Salvesen

By FRASER NELSON

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN, the food processing and logistics company that halved in size after demerging Aggreko three months ago, yesterday said that a poor summer pea harvest has so far cost it £4.1 million.

The company, which relies on peas for 70 per cent of food profits, had to ship in more expensive foreign greens when the UK pea harvest fell 45 per cent in July and August.

Edward Roderick, chief executive, said that even if next year's pea crop recovers, the pea business — worth £30 million — is unlikely to recover fully until 1999.

Overall pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30 rose to £47.6 million, against £51.6 million for the larger group last time. Earnings were 10.5p (12.3p) a share.

An interim dividend of 3.9p, against the 20.8p delivered through the special dividend last time, is due on February 2. The shares strengthened 9p to 103p yesterday.

Honorary post for Hanson

By ADAM JONES

LORD HANSON is to become chairman emeritus at the demerged conglomerate when he retires as chairman at the end of the month. It is seen in the City as a "figurehead" role (See Commentary, this page).

Meanwhile, falling gold prices and other woes at its mining associates forced Hanson, which recently split in a four-way demerger, to write off a further £9.4 million in its third quarter. A write-down in assets at RGC, the Australian mining company, accounted for £4.9 million. The rest of the £9.4 million write-off was from a fall in the market value of Goldfields, an Australian associate.

The building materials and aggregates company is moving to a December 31 financial year-end. It reported pre-tax profits of £131.1 million for the nine months to September 30, held back by exceptional charges from the mining interests, which totalled £38.5 million.

Travel Group anxiety depresses Reed shares

SHARES in Reed International, the UK arm of Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch information and publishing group, yesterday fell 25½p to 618p, yesterday continuing anxiety over amid continuing anxiety over previously announced problems in Reed Travel Group (see Raymond Snoddy writes).

Reed Elsevier made clear in trading statement yesterday that there would be "substantial provisions" because of exaggerated circulation claims by Reed Elsevier in limited by Analysts expected that the scale

of the problem has not been quantified and were worried that there could be litigation.

It did become clear yesterday that the company hopes to decide on a purchaser for its IPC consumer magazines division before the end of the year. The deal could raise more than £800 million for Reed Elsevier.

Indicative offers are expected shortly, and, if the sums suggested are considered satisfactory, Reed Elsevier plans to move quickly to conclude a transaction early in 1998.

Every business needs expert advice and information. At Business Link, we offer the widest range of business services available and you'll find we're more than familiar with the needs of businesses like yours. To contact the Business Link that serves your area, just call us on 0345 561 165 or visit us at www.businesslink.co.uk. It's where you go from here.

BUSINESS LINK

My company's doing well, but could it do better?

My profits are up, but could they be higher?

My staff are good, but do they need further training?

My customers seem happy, but what if they go elsewhere?

YOUR COMPANY IS BUSIER THAN IT'S EVER BEEN. SO WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?



BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES FOR WALES, SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND CAN ALSO BE CONTACTED THROUGH THE BUSINESS LINK NUMBER.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer
of the YearDogfight over Dalgety
could raise price to £1bn

DALGETY climbed 13p to 285p in the growing belief that it may soon be carved up like a tin of its own dog food by its two biggest rivals.

This latest flurry of activity was sparked by comments from Peter Brabeck, Nestlé's chief executive, who said the Swiss group was planning to expand aggressively into three main areas: mineral water, ice cream and poultry.

Nestlé is already one of the biggest pet food suppliers in the world, but a poor third in Europe behind Dalgety's Spillers, which includes Felix and Winalot, and Mars with its Whiskas brand.

It is known that Associated British Foods, 1p firmer at 55p, would be interested in Dalgety's millings operation and might also be prepared to pick up the rest, including food ingredients and Martin Brower, which supplies McDonald's.

These two alone could fetch £400 million. Nestlé would be left to take on the petfoods side. A break-up bid could be worth up to 350p a share, valuing Dalgety at more than £1 billion.

Elsewhere, it looked as if the traditional pre-Christmas rally had arrived early as share prices raced away, surging back above the 5,000 level to close at their best of the day.

The FTSE 100 index closed 111.6 higher at 5,082.3 fuelled by the opening rise for the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street. Total turnover reached a healthy 937 million shares. Dealers say that bids among second-liners have helped to drive up the market.

It was giveaway day for many investors with a total of £1.8 billion being returned to shareholders in both Reuters, up 20p at 403p, and GEC, 13p better at 403p.

It was the second attempt to return value to shareholders for Reuters, after a previous attempt last year was blocked by Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer. GEC is floating off GEC Alsthom and returning £300 million by share buyback.

Reckitt & Colman was driven 70p higher in a thin market to 955p as talk of a bid soon from cash-rich Unilever was revived.

The overnight rise for the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gave a fillip to HSBC, up 7p at £16.72, and Standard Chartered, 3p to 750p. The rest of the banking sector enjoyed a



Stephen Riley, of Denby Group, 12½p higher

fresh wave of speculative buying, with NatWest 22p higher at 925p on persistent talk of a bid for it. ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, has been mentioned and it is known to have had talks with Abbey National, up 22p at 955p. Its name has also been linked with Barclays, up 42p at £15.30, and the Prudential, 29p better at 709p.

Northern Rock broke through the 500p level for the first time since floating earlier this year with a rise of 12p at 505p. There were also gains for Alliance & Leicester, 19p to 752p, Halifax, 13p to 725p, Lloyds TSB, 10p to 725p, Royal Bank of Scotland, 29p to 720p, and Woolwich, 10p to 312p.

Lehman Brothers has upgraded its recommendation in shares of Securicor from "neu-

tral" to "outperform" ahead of results later this month. The shares rose 12p to 284p.

A healthy increase in profits last year and encouraging comments about current trading lifted Denby Group, headed by Stephen Riley, chief executive, 12½p to 155p.

Racal Electronics firmed 3½p to 222p on news of the sale of its health and safety division for £43.2 million.

AEA Technology, still celebrating the move by the FTSE steering committee to create a new sector for investment technology companies, put on 40p to 483p.

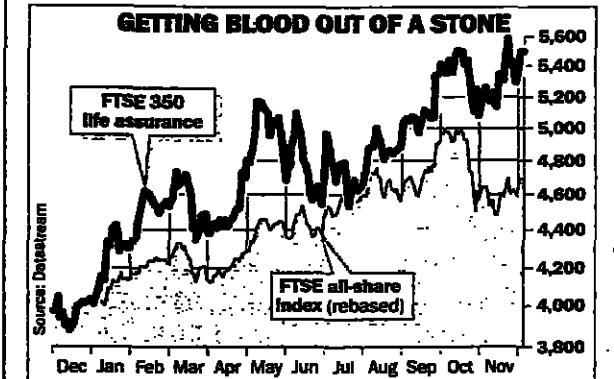
Britax International marked time at 127p after Panmure Gordon, the company's own broker, lifted its profit forecast.

Plans to increase brick production next year by one third lifted Blockleys 3p to 52p.

A government survey indicating signs of a slow-down in construction orders took its toll on the sector. Bellway fell 1p to 332p, Tibury Down 1p to 213p, Hepworth 2p to 238p, Polytype 3p to 203p, and Tarmac 2p to 113p.

Shares of Boustead, the rubber plantations group, were requested at 20p and closed at 21p. They were suspended in September at 16p.

London Clubs lost 2p to 275p, despite suggestions that the casino group will use today's interim results to give an upbeat appraisal of its move into Las Vegas.



Making money out of the Government's new individual savings accounts could be like trying to get blood out of a stone. That is the conclusion of David Nisbet at NatWest Markets in a report entitled *ISAs: Trick or Treat?*

Nisbet's initial impression is that the introduction of these new savings schemes, brought into place by the existing Peps and Tassas, will be bad news for the home service companies such as Pearl Assurance, Britannic, 2½p firmer at £10.15, London & Manchester, unchanged at

500p, and Royal London. But the effect on the other life insurers would be at best neutral. These include Prudential, up 29p at 709p, Legal & General, 9½p better at 521p, Norwich Union, 25p stronger at 393p on takeover hopes, and Sun Life, 15p higher at 418p.

"The less well-off savers may turn to the banks or building societies to open their accounts. They are unlikely to turn to the home service companies. But even those that attract sav-

ing may find it such low margin that they struggle to make a profit," he said.

through the 500p level for the first time since floating earlier this year with a rise of 12p at 505p.

There were also gains for Alliance & Leicester, 19p to 752p, Halifax, 13p to 725p, Lloyds TSB, 10p to 725p, Royal Bank of Scotland, 29p to 720p, and Woolwich, 10p to 312p.

Lehman Brothers has upgraded its recommendation in shares of Securicor from "neu-

tral" to "outperform" ahead of results later this month. The shares rose 12p to 284p.

A healthy increase in profits last year and encouraging comments about current trading lifted Denby Group, headed by Stephen Riley, chief executive, 12½p to 155p.

Racal Electronics firmed 3½p to 222p on news of the sale of its health and safety division for £43.2 million.

AEA Technology, still celebrating the move by the FTSE steering committee to create a new sector for investment technology companies, put on 40p to 483p.

Britax International marked time at 127p after Panmure Gordon, the company's own broker, lifted its profit forecast.

Plans to increase brick production next year by one third lifted Blockleys 3p to 52p.

A government survey indicating signs of a slow-down in construction orders took its toll on the sector. Bellway fell 1p to 332p, Tibury Down 1p to 213p, Hepworth 2p to 238p, Polytype 3p to 203p, and Tarmac 2p to 113p.

Shares of Boustead, the rubber plantations group, were requested at 20p and closed at 21p. They were suspended in September at 16p.

London Clubs lost 2p to 275p, despite suggestions that the casino group will use today's interim results to give an upbeat appraisal of its move into Las Vegas.

A GILT-EDGED: There was an almost audible sigh of relief at the decision of the Bank of England to peg interest rates. It meant that the bond market was able to recover all of Wednesday's losses, with the best gains seen at the shorter end, resulting in a flattening of the yield curve.

In the futures pit the March series of the long gilt rose £1.2 to £120.22 in margin trading that saw 52,000 contracts completed.

In long Treasury 8 per cent 2021 finished 1½p better at £119.12, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 sported a gain of 1½p at £101.32.

NEW YORK: The firm bond market, absence of rate rises in Europe and a rebound in South Korean and Hong Kong stocks bolstered sentiment, traders said. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 79.82 points higher at 8,111.83.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 8111.83 (+79.82)

S&P Composite 982.08 (+4.21)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 16306.79 (+278.72)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 11474.94 (+207.39)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index 918.73 (+9.28)

Sydney:

ASX 2552.5 (+9.9)

Frankfurt:

DAX 4199.80 (+56.91)

Singapore:

Straits 1700.23 (+3.94)

Brussels:

General 14124.13 (+94.57)

Paris:

CAC-40 2914.45 (+12.18)

Zurich:

SIX Gen 1288.50 (+9.48)

London:

FT 30 3264.41 (+57.8)

FTSE 100 5082.3 (+111.6)

FTSE 250 4724.5 (+34.1)

FTSE 350 3452.8 (+46.5)

FTSE Euroshare 100 2649.41 (+22.92)

FTSE All-Share 2385.05 (+43.48)

FTSE Non Financials 2404.99 (+35.02)

FTSE Real Estate 132.37 (+0.30)

FTSE Govt Secs 100.48 (+0.22)

Bargains 9326

LEAP Volume 1,670 (+0.07)

German Mark 2,967.0 (+0.01)

Exchange Index 104.9 (-0.4)

Bank of England official base rate 5.00%

E.C.U. 1.5033

L.S.D.R. 1.2370

RPI 199.5 Oct (1.7%) Jan 1997/100

RPIX 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

RPI-X 157.9 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1997/100

TEMPUS

French fudge

MORE cash is something GEC does not need, yet it should bank another £575 million after tax from the flotation of GEC Alsthom, its joint venture with Alcatel Alsthom of France. A share buyback of £300 million is a mere bagatelle in the context of GEC, which will need to find a home for the flotation proceeds if the extra cash is not to dilute earnings by 4 to 5 per cent in the 1998-99 financial year.

However, GEC is right to distance itself from the Anglo-French joint venture heavy engineering is a low-profit cyclical business with little connection to defence electronics. But the market's warm reception yesterday had as much to do with signs of activity as any real understanding of what GEC will look like in five years.

GEC's recent buying record is not good. It was blown out of the water at an embarrass-

ingly early stage in the bidding for Siemens defence electronics arm. Investors would like a big American defence deal to avoid GEC being sidelined in future European restructuring, but hand-wringing over high valuations is also slowing progress in the USA, admits George Simpson, managing director.

Mr Simpson may have preferred a full denouement of GEC Alsthom. But to satisfy Alcatel's desire for cash, it is stuck with a minority stake in a quoted French turbine maker. This is an irritation when GEC needs to build its position in defence and industrial electronics. The float plan is a fudge, but GEC shares rose more than 3 per cent yesterday, an indication of the market's hunger for corporate activity. It looks fairly valued on a prospective p/e of about 16.7 to 16.8 for the year but hope of more deals could boost the shares short term.

GUS

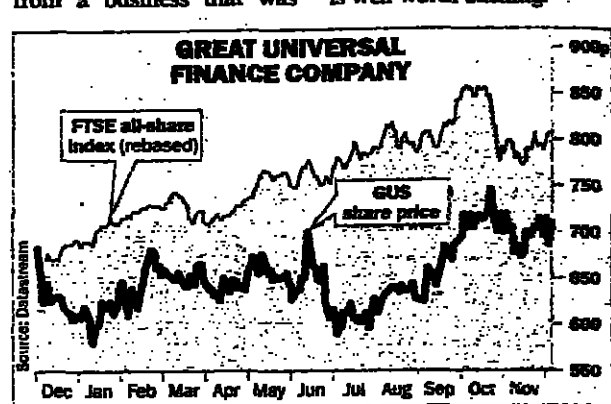
THE reason for the Japanese obsession with Burberry is mysterious, but the Asian country's continuing financial implosion bodes ill for the retailer. This is unfortunate, not just for the short-term profit impact but because it will delay the timing of the flotation of Burberry.

GUS has made no public statement about a sale but the logic of spinning off or selling the brand is compelling. Yesterday's figures reveal that GUS is transforming itself into something more like a financial and business services group than a retailer. The profit contribution from treasury operations will soon equal home shopping in the UK, and strong growth from Experian provides GUS with every reason to focus invest-

ment further on information services. Of course, GUS is also investing heavily in home shopping in a bid to generate more sales.

The strategy seems to be working, although GUS is inevitably paying a price in increased bad debts and higher fixed costs. Nevertheless, a 6 per cent rise in sales from a business that was

static or declining is a promising turnaround. It makes little sense for GUS to own Burberry, a business that would attract a hefty premium from an Asian investor, but the timing is not right. The principal problem facing its new chief, Rose Marie Bravo, should be to groom it for sale. In the meantime, GUS is well worth backing.



P&O

THERE are two sound reasons to sell a business today. Either the offer on the table is too good to refuse or the outlook is too poor to justify keeping it. In the case of Bovis, the housebuilder floated by P&O yesterday, neither reason seems applicable. Bovis is a fine housebuilder doing business in an average market. Unfortunately, housebuilder ratings are poor because investors fear higher interest rates and a downturn. There are too many quoted builders and Bovis has been priced to go at a mere 8.9 times forward earnings.

Having told the world Bovis was to float, P&O was reluctant to delay the sale but it always had the option of demerger. Concerns that P&O's army of small investors would dump the shares seem spurious. Private investors are more cautious and would probably have waited for recovery or a bid for the

business. Instead, the institutions who picked up the stock for a song will benefit when the rating recovers in a year's time.

The reality is that P&O wanted the cash to buy cruise ships where the group is today earning impressive returns. Orders for more giant floating palaces are likely but investors should remember that big ships take years to build and consumer confidence changes fast. The shares are not to be chased.

Stakis

STAKIS received a pasting yesterday after revealing dull figures and the treatment seems undeserved. The reaction was all the more surprising given the reputation David Michels, its chief executive, has established since he took the helm of the once-ailing Glasgow-based company in 1991.

The market's jitters are probably because Stakis is again in transition. Having

raised the hotel group from the ashes, Mr Michels has been writing cheques—buying Metropole Hotels and LivingWell healthclubs.

These figures, though perfectly respectable, do not sparkle even when the full picture of the fullish prices paid. The return on Metropole, for example, is still under 10 per cent.

Also in the dock are the casinos, now overhauled and under new management. Rises in attendances, cash drop and membership numbers are encouraging but have yet to reach the bottom line. There are also concerns over the effect of a rising tax charge over future earnings, though again all this is well known.

Current-year pre-tax profits of £70 million and earnings per share of 7.50p would put Stakis on a multiple of 13.2 times. Not the cheapest in the sector but rest assured that Mr Michels still deserves the benefit of the doubt.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

Dec 97 984.97 Mar 1119.1116
May 1022.1012 May 1119.1116
Jul 1045.1044 Jul 1119.1116
Sep 1065.1064 Sep 1119.1116
Dec 1079.1079 Dec

West must respond to threat of sick tiger disease in Asia

The crisis in the Far East economies could inflict real damage to growth and profit margins all over the world

Japan has announced what is likely to prove open-ended public protection for bank depositors, and the London market seems to have concluded that this is the end of its Asian nightmares. Japan can clean out its own Augean stable and London can get on with its cash-driven bull run. There is no shadow here of the other Asian news of the week: the fierce austerity imposed by the IMF bail-out for Korea, and its reflection in cutbacks in two huge Korean projects in the UK. This seems perverse. The truth is that the Japanese banking crisis, more than ten years in the making, has never posed much of an external threat, provided that it was sensibly tackled. But the setback in the former "tiger" economies of the Asian group, which has roused few echoes on this side of the globe, must do real damage to growth, and to profit margins, all over the world. It has already inflicted a probably fatal defeat on President Clinton's drive for freer trade, and could revive protectionism in Europe. True, the initial impact will be greatest in Japan (which must feel haunted) and in the US and Germany; but in a global economy, nobody is immune.

The Japanese "crisis" is simply an exaggerated replay of that epic American non-event, the Savings and Loans collapse of the 1980s — "Mad Finance, Part II" perhaps. Both are sagas of unsound lending financed with wholesale money. In both cases, the authorities were fully aware of the trouble at an early stage, but in both decided to settle for a sharp lecture, and the hope that ill-managed institutions could contrive their own salvation.

And the result was the same in both countries. The wounded banks were driven to ever higher risks in their search for profit, so what had started as a crisis grew into a catastrophe. And in the end, when bankers started going to prison and the truth could no longer be masked, the governments have found the same answer: a bail-out. The cost will be a large increase in the national debt, but better that than to allow millions of savers watch their assets vanish into a black hole.

This appears to be a catastrophe without victims, apart from the guilty managers and their shareholders. There is some budgetary constraint on the interest on the bail-out funds (some \$200 billion — £120 million — in the US, a larger but still unmeasured sum in Japan) is a permanent addition to public spending. But the "priming" of so much money has had no impact on activity, or even on inflation: it simply ensured that the savers still owned the funds they thought they held in the first place. Not even the construction industry was much affected: the banks took over the lead role in housing finance. The world was right to shrug off the S&L crisis, and will be right to ignore Japan.

At first sight, the "tigers" have caught exactly the same disease: unwise lending by ill-supervised banks. In fact, however, the similarity is only skin-deep. The differences, which are vital, are shown up under those normally dry book-keeper's headings,



Michel Camdessus, left, of the IMF, and South Korea's Lim Chang Yuel sign a \$55 billion rescue deal

"sources and uses of funds". The S&Ls in the US and the Japanese banks borrowed at home so their liabilities (and their problems) were domestic. The tiger banks borrowed heavily in Tokyo and New York, so their problems are international. Equally, the lending in the US and Japan went mainly to fund financial asset bubbles, or excessive speculative building. Bad luck for domestic investors.

Stock markets have also collapsed in the tiger economies and there is, too, a large legacy of empty skyscrapers — domestic woes, for the most part. But a great deal also went to ill-judged industrial expansion, above all in electronics, but across a wide range of other industries intended to serve a booming Asian market that is no longer booming.

In short, the tiger economies are

sure, nepotism and outright bribes. This would have been enough to guarantee disaster, but it took a regime of pegged exchange rates to make it international (note that Singapore, which has proved relatively immune, floated its exchange when imported financial inflation first threatened).

With exchange rates apparently immovably fixed to the dollar, or to the yen, it has seemed prudent and risk-free to borrow in New York or Tokyo, where interest rates were lower (much lower in the case of the yen) than those charged domestically. As a result, the tiger banks have found that as their loans began to turn bad, they were facing large short-term foreign liabilities. The major cause of the devaluations of the tiger currencies was not, as Datuk Seri Dr Mahatir Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia, has

claimed, the machinations of New York hedge funds. It was the desperate efforts of their own banks to hedge their foreign currency liabilities. Those who moved fastest have lost least.

Now for the economic fallout. The sheer scale of the Asian investment boom of the last decade can be seen in the table. Asian and Chinese investment grew nearly fivefold in the decade to 1996, Korean spending nearly sixfold, while spending in the old industrial world barely doubled. In the present crisis of financial panic and industrial overcapacity, investment spending could easily fall back to 1986 levels (when China faced a crisis in 1990 investment fell by some 94 per cent). This alone could impose a deflationary shock of more than \$500 billion (£300 million) on the world economy. The biggest shock would be in the most successful exporters of capital equip-

ment — Japan (which shipped some \$95 billion in 1986), the US and Germany. Small wonder that official forecasts for world growth have already been revised down by about 0.5 per cent; on past experience of shocks, this first estimate is much too optimistic. Some US pundits are already comparing the current crisis with the great deflation of the last third of the 19th century, when new competition from the US interior, Australia and South America drove commodity prices down 40 per cent over 30 years, and caused worldwide deflation and near-stagnation. But that, according to the evidence of David Hale of Zurich Insurance to the US House Banking Committee last month, is too gloomy. A century ago we were on the gold standard, and money supply could not grow in step with output; now, with paper money, we can reflate (however it may, as we have just seen in Japan, take a major crisis to remind central bankers of the inflationary duties).

It is the threat to profit margins that is probably the more insidious. Competition from the tigers made good headlines, but it remained a minor cloud as long as their currencies were strong, and Asian demand was expected to absorb their output. Now, though, it looks a major threat to the West not just in electronics and cars, but in footwear, steel, petrochemicals and textiles. When this provokes a new wave of plant closures and downsizing, the politicians (unlike the central bankers) will be under pressure to do just the wrong thing: trade protection. President Clinton's defeat over fast-track trade authority could be a small first step: the reminder here is not 19th century stagnation, but the role of the Smoot-Hawley Act (US trade protection) in the great inter-war slump.

Another exaggerated nightmare? Very probably — though a major devaluation by China, already much discussed, would certainly make things worse. But even on its own, the tiger crisis remains a real one. The threat to world growth (and still more, in a stock market context, to profit margins) is surely real enough to justify some reaction in Western stock markets. So far there has been virtually none.

INVESTMENT SPENDING (All figures \$billions)

	1978	1982	1986	1990	1994	1996
*Asian group	\$29.9	\$34.8	\$48.1	\$101.1	\$174.2	\$214.8
South Korea	\$16.3	\$21.3	\$30.7	\$84.2	\$163	\$178.4
China	\$47.7	\$61.6	\$81.3	\$3.2	\$189.9	\$304
Total	\$93.9	\$117.7	\$160.1	\$188.5	\$527.1	\$697.5

*Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore

suffering an old-fashioned boom-and-bust with international complications. The important legacy is one of surplus capacity, now rendered newly competitive by the devaluations that have resulted from the crisis. These plants, hungry for sales, are now a major threat to growth and to profit margins in the West — competition that could provoke a protectionist backlash.

It is worth sketching the history of the dangerous misjudgments that have caused the crisis. Weak bank supervision is an important element in all the Asian crises: all, including Japan (but excluding Singapore and Hong Kong) are industrial geniuses, but financial innocents. They have followed fashion, a normal Asian characteristic, which unfortunately leads to financial instability; and they have relied on official supervisors who are also prey to fashion, not to mention political pres-

sumed, the machinations of New York hedge funds. It was the desperate efforts of their own banks to hedge their foreign currency liabilities. Those who moved fastest have lost least. Now for the economic fallout. The sheer scale of the Asian investment boom of the last decade can be seen in the table. Asian and Chinese investment grew nearly fivefold in the decade to 1996, Korean spending nearly sixfold, while spending in the old industrial world barely doubled. In the present crisis of financial panic and industrial overcapacity, investment spending could easily fall back to 1986 levels (when China faced a crisis in 1990 investment fell by some 94 per cent). This alone could impose a deflationary shock of more than \$500 billion (£300 million) on the world economy. The biggest shock would be in the most successful exporters of capital equip-

Low-key bank builds bridges in markets as EMU approaches

Alasdair Murray on the job scheme that may raise the EIB's profile

The European Investment Bank does not deal in small change. The financing arm of the European Union has just agreed loans totalling £1 billion for a series of UK infrastructure projects, including £600 million alone for Rail-track. Total loans to the UK this year are expected to amount to about 2.5 billion (£1.67 billion) out of an annual loan budget of 23 billion.

The EIB uses its cast-iron AAA credit rating to raise this money itself on the European capital markets, ensuring that the organisation is classed as the largest non-sovereign borrower in the world. The EIB has had a hand in just about every big infrastructure project in the UK over the past decade from Canary Wharf to the Channel Tunnel via the Skye toll bridge and the latest Severn bridge. Yet for all its financial clout the EIB, which is owned by the 15 EU member countries, has cut a surprisingly low profile. Sir Brian Urwin, the bank's British president, has been content to leave the often less than flattering headlines to other EU-backed organisations such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

This backroom role, however, looks set to be cast aside in the final run-up to monetary union. The European Union has charged the Bank, which was established to encourage even development across the Common Market, with promoting the single currency.

The bank created a wave of market interest this year when it became the first institution to issue a euro-based bond. However, it is the EIB's enhanced role in pursuing job creation policies that is most likely to force it out of the shadows. No longer chiefly restricted to funding infrastructure projects, the Bank has been given a mandate to invest in areas as diverse as health and high-tech start-ups.

The genesis of this transformation can be traced to the Amsterdam EU summit in June. A Franco-German split over job creation threatened to scupper the European Monetary Union stability pact — a German-inspired plan designed to set tough fiscal controls on EU member governments. It required the personal intervention of Sir Brian, with a plan for the EIB to develop specific employment-generating projects, to help to smooth over some of the political differences between the two countries.

The EIB reported back to the EU Council of Ministers at the Luxembourg summit last month, outlining a series of

schemes that will target the regions most likely to suffer from the structural dislocation that EMU is expected to cause. The package will take the EIB into virgin territory. It is committing 1.3 billion euro to health, education and urban environment projects, which the EIB believes are both vital to improving local infrastructure and are employment-intensive.

The EIB has further earmarked a billion euro to invest in high-tech start-ups. About 125 million euro has already been dedicated to the bank's first foray into the risky arena of venture capital through a dedicated fund. But the EIB, which is restricted from investing directly in equity, will maintain an arms-length approach towards the fund using its sister organisation, the European Investment Fund, to administer the money. Sir Brian estimates this initial funding can be leveraged to about 800 million euro, providing much-needed capital in many European countries that are currently starved of venture fund backing.

The remaining money will be distributed through a range of other outlets and the EIB is especially keen to tap into UK expertise. The EIB has already held talks with the Department of Trade and Industry and venture capital funds but

believes that the clearing banks are probably the best channel for this financing.

The jobs programme has an initial three-year term, though it is likely to be rolled over for at least another term when it expires at the end of 2000. Sir Brian, however, is acutely aware that the EIB can only scratch the surface of Europe's unemployment problem. "We can't solve the unemployment problem, but we are making a visible and tangible contribution that is extremely important in political terms," he says.

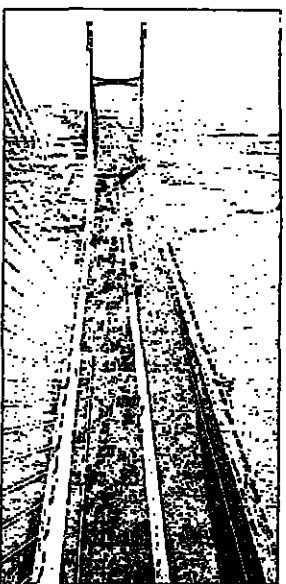
"It is part of a wider strategy for solving the problem, although the ultimate onus remains on member states to work on their macroeconomic and structural policies."

Job creation is, however, only one area in which the EIB expects to support EMU. Its size means that it is a huge and credible player in the capital markets. The bank believes that by beginning to issue some of its bonds in euros it can set the benchmark for future euro issues as well as establishing a market in the bonds.

"We want to boost confidence in monetary union and ensure there is a pool of euros in the market from the start," Sir Brian explains. The EIB's first issue earlier this year enjoyed such strong support that the bank increased its size from a billion euro to 1.3 billion euro to meet demand.

A series of "tributary" issues in individual currencies has also been made by the bank. These will be converted into euros once EMU is up and running. Sir Brian is keen to date the only notable absence, although Sir Brian makes clear that this is due to technical problems caused by the relatively high level of UK interest rates, rather than doubts over Britain's membership of a single currency.

Indeed the EIB emphasises that the UK's position on EMU is unlikely to be a threat to its relationship with either the City or the Government. Sir Brian believes the jobs package has the strong support of Gordon Brown, who is still keen on persuading the rest of Europe of the virtues of Britain's labour market policies. The EIB will also continue to rely heavily on the City's capital markets and a disproportionate amount of its borrowing is likely to continue to be denominated in sterling. Railtrack's £600 million merely serves to emphasise that the EIB is one European organisation that wants to continue to be a key player in the UK, whether we join EMU or not.



New Severn bridge

Pilot error

THEY are meeting today to consider the succession at Airbus Industrie, which must under its own rules lose Jean Pierson as managing director from next March. The MD at Airbus has always been French, the chairman German — don't ask why, but a Brit never gets a look-in.

But I hear there has been a problem. Pierson was expected to be replaced by Noel Forgerd, head of Lagardère, the French defence group, except that Forgerd is close to Jacques Chirac, the French President. And Chirac has fallen out with Lionel Jospin,

the Prime Minister, over the former's habit of waffling through such appointments to his chums. There are a couple of other Frenchmen in the frame but not much fancied. But one solution is being mooted. They could give the chairmanship to Pierson, and the managing directorship to a German.

KELVIN MACKENZIE, celebrated former editor of The Sun, once famously sacked his astrology columnist with a memo that started "As you will already know..." Surely some similar presentiment of doom should have tipped off Philippa Sage, of Pwsey, Wiltshire, banned from trading for seven years after a Bristol Industrial tribunal heard that staff at her employment agency had repeatedly not been paid. It supplied clairvoyants, palm readers and other entertainers.

Bank Roll

A GLITTERING gathering at the Bank on Wednesday night for the 90th birthday celebrations for Lord Roll of Ipsden, chairman of SG Warburg from 1974 to 1983, who still turns up at the office of SBC Warburg Dillon Read most days. The host was Sir David



Scholey, a member of the Court of the Bank, and the venue the Court Room. The guest list was a Who's Who of banking and politics over the past two decades. Sir Samuel Brittan, Lord and Lady Callaghan, Mr and Mrs Eddie George, Sir Edward Heath and Lord and Lady Howe. Even Jacques de Larosière, paying a welcome visit to these shores, and Helmut Schmidt.

Teed off

"A GOOD walk ruined" was Dr Johnson's apt dismissal of golf. But the sport has a great appeal for accountants, being, I suppose, almost as dull as they are, so a couple of magazines have launched an annual tournament for the profession. All you need are a

recognised handicap and "preferable" membership of a golf club. Plus minimal personal skills, of course. The Accountancy Age Masters 1998 "promises to be one of the most prestigious golfing events in the accountancy calendar". And almost as exciting as the annual Institute of Chartered Accountants dinner. I am not sure I can contain my excitement.

I AM gently taken to task by Jonathan Haslam, editor of corporate affairs in the London Metal Exchange, from next Monday, over my suggestion yesterday that I might arrive friendless at the LME from Whitehall. A colleague turned up from the Civil Service with a giant yucca plant in tow. He is making the same trip accompanied by two prints by Howard Hodgkin which adorned his wall at the Education Department. Hodgkin is an avant-garde artist of the old school, which means he was terribly challenging before they started picking sharks.

One is a sunset, all "vibrant reds and yellows," the other an afternoon scene in Morocco, and both are rolled up chez Haslam, awaiting the framer. Very nice, but could they not stay there? Alas, Mrs Haslam will not have them in the house. Says Haslam: "It's not her style of art — she's rather more traditionalist."

Thorny issue

DAVID MICHELS, chief executive of Scottish hotel group Stakis, does not normally dodge a question. But asked yesterday whether he might be interested in buying Thistle Hotels, he came up with some corporate verbiage about looking at everything in pursuit of shareholder value. Sure. A more telling admission, perhaps, from Neil Chisman, Stakis finance director: "There was something in the Scottish press about it earlier this week, but most of our employees thought they were talking about Partick Thistle."

MARTIN WALLER



David Michels declined to say whether he planned to grasp the Thistle

THE TIMES EUROPEAN CITY BREAK COLLECTION

Prague
from only £299

Rome
from only £269

Venice
from only £279

Departures from November 1997 through to March 1998

All prices are per person and include: Return scheduled flights from the UK. Three nights' accommodation in a 3 or 4 star hotel including breakfast. City sightseeing programme. Optional excursion programme. Transfers between the airport and your hotel. Services of a tour manager. All prices exclude UK Airport Departure Tax of £20 for Prague and £10 for Rome and Venice.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CALL NOW ON 0990 553355 (24 Hours)

or complete and return the coupon to:
The Times European City Breaks,
Festive Holidays Limited, Pate Court,
North Place, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL50 4DY.

This holiday is operated by Festive Holidays Limited,
a company independent of Times Newspapers Limited.
ABTA V106X ATOL 2172

THE TIMES - European City Breaks
Please forward me a brochure (tick as appropriate):
☐ Prague ☐ Rome ☐ Venice

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms) _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Times Newspapers or companies which may be of interest.



"Slow down! You'll never get backing from the EIB if you're on time"

هكذا من الأصل

S

1997 Low Company Price +/- % PE				1997 High Low Company Price +/- % PE				1997 Low Company Price +/- % PE				1997 High Low Company Price +/- % PE				1997 Low Company Price +/- % PE						
323	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		407	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		407	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
324	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		408	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		408	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
325	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		409	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		409	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
326	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		410	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		410	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
327	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		411	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		411	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
328	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		412	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		412	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
329	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		413	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		413	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
330	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		414	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		414	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
331	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		415	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		415	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
332	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		416	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		416	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
333	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		417	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		417	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
334	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		418	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		418	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
335	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		419	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		419	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
336	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		420	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		420	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
337	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		421	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		421	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
338	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		422	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		422	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
339	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		423	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		423	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
340	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		424	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		424	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
341	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		425	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		425	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
342	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		426	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		426	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
343	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		427	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		427	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
344	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		428	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		428	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
345	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		429	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		429	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
346	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		430	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		430	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
347	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		431	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		431	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
348	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		432	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		432	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
349	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		433	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		433	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
350	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		434	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		434	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
351	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		435	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		435	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
352	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		436	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		436	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
353	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		437	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		437	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
354	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		438	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		438	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
355	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		439	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		439	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
356	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		440	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		440	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
357	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		441	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		441	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
358	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		442	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		442	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
359	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		443	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		443	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
360	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		444	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		444	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
361	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		445	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		445	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
362	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		446	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		446	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
363	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		447	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		447	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
364	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		448	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		448	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
365	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		449	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		449	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
366	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		450	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		450	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
367	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		451	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		451	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
368	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		452	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		452	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
369	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		453	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		453	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
370	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		454	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		454	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
371	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		455	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		455	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
372	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		456	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		456	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
373	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		457	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		457	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
374	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		458	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		458	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
375	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		459	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		459	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
376	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		460	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		460	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
377	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		461	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		461	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
378	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		462	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		462	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
379	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		463	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		463	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
380	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		464	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		464	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
381	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		465	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		465	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
382	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		466	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		466	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
383	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		467	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		467	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
384	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		468	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		468	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
385	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		469	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		469	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
386	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		470	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		470	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
387	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		471	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		471	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
388	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		472	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		472	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
389	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		473	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		473	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
390	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		474	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		474	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
391	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		475	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		475	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
392	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		476	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		476	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
393	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		477	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		477	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
394	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		478	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		478	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
395	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		479	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		479	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
396	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		480	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		480	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71
397	75	Adco	122	+4	33	71		481	60	Rocky Mt	122	+4	33	71		481	60					

If you have a complaint about any item in this newspaper which concerns ***inaccuracy, harassment, intrusion or discrimination***, write to our editor about it.

If you remain dissatisfied contact the **Press Complaints Commission** - an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press. This newspaper will abide by their decision.

Press Complaints Commission
1 Salisbury Square, London EC4A 3AE
Telephone: **0171 353 1248** Fax: 0171 353 8355

[illegible]

tive
 ve
 ier
 ns
 wn

 as
 th
 ce
 ss
 der
 d.
 ns-
 he
 in
 oi-
 ut
 In
 er
 an
 th
 ed
 th
 ht

 er
 de
 its
 AF
 ay
 a
 o-

 h,
 y-
 ut
 ot
 dy
 ve

 's
 5,
 g-
 o-
 sa
 ce.
 es
 ed
 v-
 ee
 a
 th
 y-

 d:
 at-
 no

 ss
 of
 or
 nd

1

Separate hi-fi products are replying to the challenge presented by the growth in mass-market mini systems. Jez Ford introduces a two-page report

Searching for the perfect sound

One warm July evening in 1878, Friedrich's Music Hall in Grand Rapids, Michigan, played host to an unusual musical challenge. Popular cornetist Jules Levy was joined on stage by one Mr Edison, who announced that his amazing phonograph would "talk, sing, crow, whistle, mimic the human voice in any language, and repeat cornet solos". Mr Edison's phonograph then trounced the cornetist, who packed up his instrument in its box and left the stage.

The experiment neatly defines the very meaning of hi-fi. High fidelity reproduction means what it says — making music sound as real as the moment it was recorded, bringing the performers through time and space into your own home.

Hi-fi went electronic after the war, when London's Tottenham Court Road was piled high with surplus circuits and valves. Flanders and Swann summed up how over-addictive the hobby could become: "With a tone control, at a single touch, I can make Caruso sound like 'Hutch'; they sang, adding 'but I never did care for music much.' The anorak-wearing hi-fi enthusiasts were born, amid a mess of technical circuits."

The boom period for high quality audio ran through the Sixties and Seventies, once convenient box 'infinite baffle' speakers had replaced awkward horn designs. It was

then that Japanese companies started producing kit.

"The market was very strong then," remembers Gordon Provan, now chairman of the British Federation of Audio. "The Japanese went for market share." The imports had the advantage of favourable exchange rates and mass production techniques to deliver high fidelity equipment at low prices in neat boxes. The anoraks never forgave them.

It was the start of a split between mass market and

secondary to shipping costs and other commercial considerations.

The argument of quality versus convenience intensified in the 1980s with the arrival of compact disc. Sold under the warranty of 'perfect sound forever', CDs could outperform vinyl with ease in a low-price system, and brought simplicity and durability to the equation.

Yet in an expensive system, the limitations of CD were obvious from day one — and vinyl albums undeniably car-

able to check the one thing essential to any music system — how it sounds.

On the other side of the fence are the hi-fi separates: individual CD players, amps and speakers. Ever wondered why these so often look like boring black boxes? Answer: they still follow the original aim of hi-fi. They have been designed to sound as good as possible, and while most manufacturers try to produce a pleasant exterior, every penny spent on cosmetics is a penny lost on sound.

Yet in recent years, mini and micro systems have risen to take more than 70 per cent of the £758 million UK audio market (GfK — Lek-trak figures to August this year). Is the flashy one-purchase system threatening to eclipse the very *raison d'être* of hi-fi?

"No way!" says Julian Richer, whose chain of hi-fi stores champions the superiority of separates. "We are seeing a phenomenal increase in interest in hi-fi separates. Consumers are realising the limitations of their systems."

"People get the sound they deserve," qualifies Tietenbrun. "Most people don't believe there is a difference. But if music is important to you, you should take a little time to listen."

It is a fair bet that if Mr Edison were to try his challenge in a theatre today, he wouldn't use a mini system.

Jez Ford is editor of What Hi-Fi? magazine



Separates on the shelf: enthusiasts argue that carefully matched components give better value than a mini system

'People get the sound they deserve. If music is important to you, you should take a little time to listen'

true hi-fi, an almost ideological schism still obvious today from the derision with which mini systems are regarded by manufacturers of 'mix and match' separates. "They are made by large companies in the Far East producing in volume," says Ivor Tietenbrun, boss of Scottish company Linn, and the man almost single-handedly responsible for the 'source first' revolution in 1970s hi-fi that switched the emphasis from quality speakers to quality sources. "Mini systems are made to meet a price point — actual sonic performance is

ry more musical information than the digital data on a compact disc.

Battle commenced, and the mass market attractions of CD won the day. Vinyl headed into what many thought was a terminal decline, then settled into a niche market where hi-fi LP logies and young dubland mixmasters find themselves unlikely fellow enthusiasts.

Today's hi-fi market has polarised. On the one side are the mini and micro systems — all-in-one solutions packed with gadgets and flashing lights, sold in high street stores where you will never be

A war is raging between specialist dealers who sell systems piece by piece and the high street chains

SET out to buy a television and you know more or less what you are letting yourself in for. It will have a screen of a size you specify and a selection from a fairly narrow set of features. There will be quality differences between brands, but the choices will be fairly well defined. Alvin Gold writes.

Systems used for sound reproduction pose a different set of problems. The equipment comes in a bewildering variety of guises, most of which use that magic phrase "high fidelity" to establish respectability.

There are systems constructed from separate hi-fi components, some good, some less so, and there is an enormous variety of packaged mini, midi and micro systems, lifestyle systems and others. Almost all of them claim to represent a close approach to the original sound.

Listen to them carefully, however, and you will find enormous differences. Many of them can be heard for what they are: shoddy monstrosities. A few are different, because they sound credibly like real musicians playing music.

The traditional dividing line lies between component-based hi-fi and one-make packaged systems, but it has become blurred

over the years. The typical packaged audio system has too many gadgets that are of little use to good music reproduction. Component hi-fi, conversely, is often pictured as complicated, difficult to match up and costly, though higher prices are probably reflected in better performance. The problem with component hi-fi is that it takes some expertise to buy and to sell. The brand names do not necessarily have instant recognition. Some expertise is needed to demonstrate, say, the difference between one CD player and the next, or why bigger loudspeakers are not necessarily better.

Good sound reproduction is not only about playing music to annoy passing bats. It is partly about communicating the beauty of music, without diminishing its impact at everyday volume levels.

One hallmark of a quality audio system is that it retains its



Hated by purists, loved by the public Kenwood mini systems start at £329.95

presence and clarity even when the volume is set low.

Buying a quality hi-fi system need not cost a fortune — you can buy a genuinely capable system

for about the price of a decent television — but it is necessarily more involved. A good dealer will establish your needs and provide advice, properly informed demonstrations and a full back-up service that may involve installing the system and exchanging components if they do not suit the customer's home. Problems of this kind often only appear after the equipment has been installed. This back-up can go well beyond the minimum requirements of consumer legislation.

Approach most high street electrical outlets for audio equipment and you are likely to be given a different story. Why bother with hi-fi separates when you can buy a single make system with everything you could possibly need? The idea is seductive.

The advantages are real, but there are problems, one of which is that many such systems are quite primitive internally and

paradoxically are often built with poorly matched internal components or loudspeakers.

Another is that such systems are dead-end purchases. A component system can be upgraded over the years and new technology incorporated as opportunities arise. Packaged systems rarely provide this flexibility. By contrast, Arcam, the UK's biggest maker of component high fidelity, is one of a number of producers whose CD players and other components can be upgraded.

There is a halfway house, identified originally by Denon a few years ago, which is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the systems market. These are systems based on what are, in effect, stylish mini-sized components, to which new ones can be added later.

There are also some exotically designed packaged systems with high-performance standards. The bottom line is that if you want quality you can find it in almost any form and a good dealer can steer you around the obstacles. BADA (the British Audio Dealers Association) has about 130 members nationwide who subscribe to a strict code of practice.

● BADA Telephone 0171-226 4044. E-mail BADA@compuserve.com.

It can be simple...

Alvin Gold outlines the important points to remember when buying components

TEN things you should know when buying hi-fi separates.

Source components

● If you are counting pennies, consider economising by reducing the number of source components. Do you really need a CD player, radio, cassette deck, MiniDisc recorder and a turntable?

● Consider simpler components: single cassette decks usually outperform twins and multideck players generally contribute more to complexity than musical pleasure. ● Quality sound from radio is the prerogative of the FM band, and quality, hiss-free stereo FM depends on good, preferably roof-mounted aerials.

Amplifiers

● Power output is often less important than manufacturers would have you believe. Personal tastes, the nature of your room and the sensitivity of the speakers count here, but 50-70 watts per channel is a good starting point for lifetime volume levels in most rooms.

● Don't be put off by lack of facilities. Tone controls, for example, are rarely found on high quality amplifiers, but almost all

ways included with budget gear; draw your own conclusions.

Loudspeakers

● Bigger is not always better. Many simple, compact speakers sound better than large impressive-looking free standers.

● Avoid placing speakers behind the furniture as it will selectively absorb the high frequencies, smothering detail.

● Loudspeakers need proper support to perform at their best. Use quality pedestal stands for compact speakers (cost, £30 a pair) rather than shelves. Small blobs of Blu-Tack between speakers and stands work wonders. Also, use dedicated speaker cables rather than bellwire or mains cable.

● Large speakers are designed to be free standing, but usually sound best with carpet-piercing spikes, which won't damage carpets.

● If you really, really want deep bass, but can't accommodate large loudspeakers, consider using compact with an active subwoofer (a specialised bass-only loudspeaker), which can often be hidden out of sight behind furniture without compromising performance.

The one essential for any great system

WHAT HI-FI?

MAKE YOUR OWN CD'S!

We unveil Philips' CD copier



No jargon. No worries. Just music.

WHAT HI-FI? sound advice

Buyer beware

Better watch out for the swindlers when shopping for a stereo

HAVE you been accosted on a garage forecourt with studio loudspeakers for sale, cheap? This is a popular scam and the speakers involved are invariably poorly built, with shabby enclosures and components, sometimes missing tweeters and crossovers.

As with confidence tricks in many other walks of life, there is no comeback. Some scams are harder to spot, and therefore more pernicious, and are to be found even in ostensibly legitimate areas.

The most infamous is the so-called "mug's eye".

which refers to packaged midi systems with unnecessary controls by the bucketful, and outside, underpowered multichannel loudspeakers.

A large number of unreliable hi-fi components and systems subscribe to similar values and far too many dealers are happy to pursue this lowest common denominator "male jewellery" approach.

With high fidelity, as with many other things in life, quality should always be the watchword.

ALVIN GOLD

NOBODY CAN MAKE HI-FI LIKE NAIM

FOR YOUR PERSONAL ADDITION AT YOUR NAIM CENTRE CALL 01722 332266
Web Site: <http://www.naim-audio.com>

naim

FOR THE VERY BEST IN HI-FI THERE'S ONLY ONE NAIM

Listen to this!

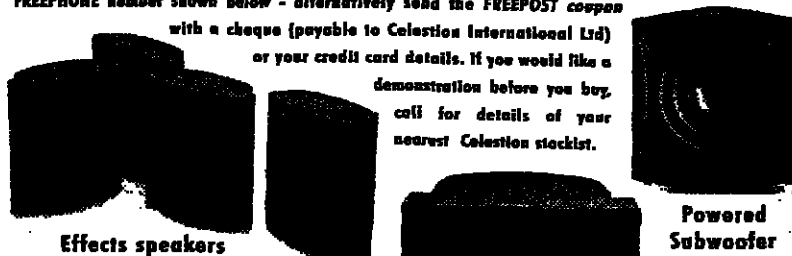
Complete home cinema system from Celestion

WAS £749

NOW ONLY £279

INCLUDING P&P

There's never been an opportunity to acquire such a serious home cinema system for such an amazingly low price. Celestion have a 70 year heritage of producing speakers of the highest quality and now bring you the "home theatre in a box", which comes complete with a powered subwoofer with built-in Dolby Pro-Logic decoder and 210 watts of amplifier power, full remote control, 4 effects speakers and a centre speaker. All you need is a Naim stereo VCR and you're in business. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity — and stocks are limited. Phone your order now with your credit card details using the FREEPHONE number shown below — alternatively send the FREEPOST coupon with a cheque (payable to Celestion International Ltd) or your credit card details. If you would like a demonstration before you buy, call for details of your nearest Celestion stockist.



Effects speakers, Centre channel, Powered Subwoofer. "Exciting sound, big bass, superbly simple Pro-Logic kit!"

FREEPHONE 0800 7313410

with your credit card details or post this coupon to: FREEPOST Celestion, Ecclestone Road, Rott, Molestone, Kent, ME15 6BB. Merry! while stocks last

Name _____ Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel. No. _____
Credit card details (Visa, Mastercard) _____ Expiry date _____ Signature _____

CELESTION

**Jez Ford on
how new
technology will
transform our
listening and
viewing habits**

For every new audio innovation you see on *Tomorrow's World* that makes it into your home, there are dozens more that bite the dust between drawing board and living room.

Such new technologies have two faces — one smiling with the promise of new toys and better performance, the other showing worry lines at the thought of your current equipment becoming defunct, and the cost of replacing it. Many people still resent the sudden redundancy of their LP collections with the arrival of the CD.

But this is an exciting time for hi-fi, with a wealth of new ideas that promise improvements in performance plus the all-important back compatibility — new concepts that have been designed to sit happily with the old.

Take compact discs. There are two plans to improve their capability: the Digital Versatile Disc, and the Super Audio CD. The first, DVD, is a disc that looks just like a CD but contains video as well as audio. One disc can carry a whole movie with far better picture quality than your video recorder can offer, and digital surround sound. It is already out in the US and Japan and the first European players should be properly launched here in the spring. DVD players can also play normal CDs, and when DVDs eventually become recordable, you will be able to have a single box for all your music and movie needs.

The plans for Super Audio CD were announced in Japan just two weeks ago by the co-inventors of the original CD system, Philips and Sony. It uses a double-layer compact disc that plays normally in a standard CD player, but can produce vastly improved quality in the planned SACD players. Whether the SACD gets into a turf war with the audio capabilities of DVD will depend on how the companies involved can work together.

It's not just the software end



MiniDisc, Digital Versatile Disc, Super Audio CD and flat components are all set to revolutionise hi-fi in the UK

The future is richer, fuller — and flatter

of things that is getting a facelift. NKT, a company based in Cambridge, is leading the world with a new way of designing loudspeakers so that they are virtually flat. No more intrusive boxes cluttering up your lounge — NKT's design can hang on the wall disguised as paintings, or even be made to form part of the wall itself. "The future of audio and video is flat," says Farad Azima, NKT's chief executive. "Whether it's the TV and speakers at home or your computer in the office."

The first audio "flaties" should be available in the spring, and are likely to become a favourite in the growing market for high-tech multi-room installation. You tell a consultant where you want music and home cinema and how much you want to pay, and they deliver a total

home solution. Robert Taussig is a London dealer who belongs to CEDIA, a network of skilled installers. "It's not so much that it is new," he explains. "Rather that people are becoming more aware of what can be achieved."

The cheapest four-room installation would be about £5,000, he says, though consultations are free.

What of the humble cassette? There have been various attempts to replace its mediocre hi-fi performance with a digital recording format, but so far, none of them has quite

kicked it out of play. Its worldwide availability and standard appearance in car systems is likely to ensure its survival for a good few years to come.

Of its challengers, Sony's MiniDisc looks the brightest hope, a rewritable optical disc

that has taken Japan by storm and is making significant waves here. It is small enough for portability and extremely versatile — you can erase and reuse a whole disc or just individual tracks, rearranging songs and even adding text titles as digital information.

After the flop of its Digital Compact Cassette, Philips is fighting back with recordable CD, its new £500 CDR-870 recorder looking quite an attractive option given the price of £3 for blank CDRs. There is an undeniable thrill to making your own CDs, and of course, the digital copies are perfect.

Any glimpse into the future of hi-fi cannot ignore the Internet. A wealth of radio stations already broadcast live on the Net, though in very limited quality at present. Everything from Virgin Radio to Kathmandu FM is avail-

able, 24 hours a day anywhere in the world, though of course you will be paying local telephone on-line call charges while you listen, making it a rather expensive way to tune in to Chris Evans in the morning.

Last month, Sharp announced production of a mini system that connects to your PC and can download music from the Net direct to MiniDisc.

There are ever-increasing music resources online (try <http://www.luma.com> or <http://sony.com/music>), though with a standard modern connection it is still a slow business. One day you will shop for music by downloading low-quality samples free, then pay to get the Super Audio version copied to your hard drive. From there it can be converted, amplified and passed on to the invisible flat hi-fi speakers hidden in your walls for the ultimate in high-tech, high quality hi-fi.

For cheapskates and big spenders

Putting a system together for Christmas?

Dan Houston has advice to suit all pockets

Excellence in hi-fi does not have to cost the earth. As long as the components do not actually add anything nasty to the sound quality of your music collection you can get away with surprisingly little outlay.

The ultimate Audio Cheapskates system, based on CD-player, amplifier and speakers, could cost as little as £380. Start with Philips's 721 CD-player, still an excellent buy at £130 after two years on the market, with a surprisingly clear delivery.

To this add the Cambridge Audio AJ Mark MK III SE amplifier, which redefines value for money at £120. The amp is rated at 30 watts but still delivers plenty of power to the right loudspeakers and will even drive sound well in largeish rooms without a hint of distortion.

Designed in the UK, and built in China, it has four inputs, so you can't have that many sources. But it does have an optional phono stage for hooking up a record player.

The speakers that sound excellent with this are JPW's ML510s, at £130. They are just 33cm high, but you wouldn't know it when this system is kicking out some rock'n'roll or relaying an orchestra. The West Country firm makes all its products locally, using HM Prisons to do some of the cabinet making. At 89dB/Watt/metre they are very sensitive, allowing more detail through and giving a fuller sound. Site them slightly away from a wall — stands are best, or wall brackets.

Turntables are still popular

and second hand vinyl is superb value at present. The quality is often amazing. Mint condition records can be had for a few pounds.

Replay is important, though, and turntables should be made to last. They look extremely simple but all the work is in the engineering of the bearings and motor.



B&W's Emphasis speaker, at £6,495, uses a horn shape to absorb rearward-travelling sound waves

Up to £500 the deck to beat is the Rega 2 or 3 at £214 or £274. A similar approach to engineering with better-grade components comes from Nottingham Analogue, whose Interspace, at £500, rivals decks at more than twice its price. The motor is so weak that you have to give the platter a push by hand to get it started, but that means the motor's vibrational effect on the heavy platter is reduced to a minimum.

It's a gorgeous piece of engineering and benefits from being used with higher grade amp and speakers.

For bankers and buffs Michel Engineering's Orbe is a model of precision engineering. The price at £1,995 for the deck alone obviously makes this an enthusiast's quarry, but it is so good to listen to, you won't want to go to work.

One of the best CD players on the market under £500 is Rega's Planet at £398. It is a top loading player and designed so that any faulty part could easily be replaced. Audio Note's CD2 at £499 gives extraordinary sound quality that you can listen to for hours on end without feeling tired. At the top of the range, at £4,250, is the Digital Analogue Company Ultima.

Arcam's Alpha 8 £360 50W amplifier is a superb design delivering detail and drive with a gorgeously solid feel to the sound, but at £799 Exposure's Super XV amp puts the icing on the cake, giving that much extra base and treble performance to bring music into sharper relief. Of silly-money amps, Krell's KAV300i is the hot hatchback.

Competition in the speaker market is fierce. I would recommend the Acoustic Energy AE120 at £500. At £580, Castle's Severn 2 award-winning speaker is as dependable as the Yorkshiremen who make it.

At £1,520, Audio Note's type E/D loudspeakers have 95dB/W/M sensitivity which has you gasping at the level of detail they can relay. They are designed as matched pairs for perfect performance in stereo.

Lottery winners, however, may prefer a pair of hand-crafted B&W speakers. The ingenious Emphasis, at a mere £6,495 the pair, uses a horn shape to absorb sound. But better known is the top-of-the-range Nautilus, a snip at £35,000 for two. (B&W: 01903 750750.)

USEFUL NUMBERS

British Federation of Audio	0171-930 3206
British Audio Dealers Association	0171-226 4044
Digital Analogue Company	01903 750755
Exposure	01273 423877
Nottingham Analogue	01773 762947
Audio Note	01273 220511
Alchemist	01707 664607
Michel Engineering	0181-953 0771
Arcam	01223 203203
JPW (Richer Sounds)	0171-827 9001
Philips	0181-689 2166
Cambridge Audio (Richer Sounds)	0171-827 9001
Rega Research	01702 333071

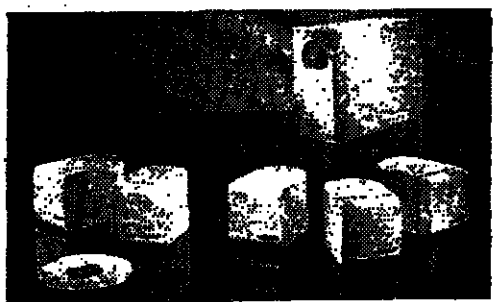
ACOUSTIMASS-6 HOME CINEMA SPEAKER SYSTEM FROM BOSE

Pop Along to Your Local Dealer and Find Out What It's Like to Have an Alien Breathing Down Your Neck

Hear it, feel it, thrill to it. Discover a new dimension in realism through full frequency digital surround sound, with deep bass to build impact and atmosphere. Experience the Acoustimass-6, the incredible home cinema and music speaker system from Bose®

The heart of the system is the Acoustimass hide-away module. This delivers deep, powerful distortion-free bass in both the front and surround channels, so you can enjoy the exciting benefits of the latest digital film audio and music recording technologies.

Add five tiny, Virtually Invisible™ cube speakers for placing around the room, and you have a complete



high performance speaker system that's easy to set up and that offers auditorium quality for under £650.

Send the coupon for more details of the Acoustimass-6, or contact your Bose® dealer for a demo. But be warned: it'll alienate you against anything less.

Please send me more information about the incredible Acoustimass-6

Name: Mr/Ms/Ms.

Address:

Post Code:

Telephone:

Please return in an envelope to: Bose Ltd, Unit G2, Trinity Trading Estate, Sixingbourne, Kent, ME10 2PD. Or fax to: 01795 427 222. Alternatively call Freephone 0800 317 533 quoting ref. AM TIMES. Better sound through research.

HEAR A DEMO AND HEAR THE DIFFERENCE

MINI

means small and in this instance, size certainly makes a difference. There is no such thing as a 'free lunch', so we always recommend our customers purchase

SYSTEMS

made up of hi-fi separates. A starter system might comprise of just a CD, amp and speakers and cost around £200. It will

SOUND

amazing compared to a one-box mini system for the same price. If any high street retailer tells you to buy a mini system for sound quality they are talking

RUBBISH

CAMPAIGN FOR
**AURAL
PLEASURE**

A relatively unbiased advertisement in the interest of consumers placed by prominent members of the hi-fi industry. Freephone 0500 10 11 12 for a free information pack.

ARCAM • Cambridge Audio • CELESTION • Gale • TEAC • YAMAHA

POSTS



DURHAM UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Durham University Business School (DUBS) is a leading international centre for teaching, research and professional development in business and management.

The Booker Chair in Retail Marketing

Salary on the Professional Scale

With a distinguished record of scholarship, appropriate qualifications and research interests, you will be expected to undertake research, teaching and consultancy that are relevant to retail marketing in general and to the strategic development of the independent food retail network in the United Kingdom in particular. The appointment, sponsored by Booker plc, is available for five years in the first instance and may be renewed for a further period. Ref: C046

Senior Lecturer in Human Resource Management

£29,380 - £33,202

You will have an outstanding record of research within the behavioural sciences and will ideally be both academically and professionally qualified within this broad area with a background in one of the core academic disciplines in this field. You will co-ordinate the School's existing research in HRM/D, play a lead role in the development of curricula within this area and make a contribution to the School's teaching at Masters' level. An appointment may be made to a Chair for a candidate of exceptional quality. Ref: A7238

Senior Lecturer in Strategic Decision Making

£29,380 - £33,202

You will be educated to PhD level, possibly with an MBA and will have a background in the behavioural sciences. The successful candidate will be research active, with a good track record of research and teaching in the field of strategic decision making, will be responsible for the development of the School's research activities in this area and will make a contribution to the School's MBA programmes. Ref: A7248

Lecturer in Information Systems/Information Technology

£16,045 - £27,985

You should be PhD qualified, have a number of years' experience teaching IS and IT at MBA level and be able to demonstrate a record of relevant published research. The ability to teach in other areas, such as operations management, would be a distinct advantage. Ref: A7238

Informal enquiries can be made to Professor Tony Cockerill, Director of DUBS on 0191 374 2200 or e-mail: Tony.Cockerill@durham.ac.uk

Further details may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, University of Durham, Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3EP (tel: 0191 374 7258; fax: 0191 374 7253 or e-mail: Acad.Recruit@durham.ac.uk).

Closing date for all posts: 12 January 1998. Please quote appropriate reference.

Scope (formerly The Spastics Society) is the UK's largest charity working with disabled people. We exist to enable men, women and children with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities to claim their rights, lead full and rewarding lives and play a full part in society.

Meldreth Manor School is a Residential School for 100 pupils with physical disabilities, severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties aged 6-19 + years of age. The school implements a pioneering inter-disciplinary staffing structure involving some 300 people to deliver an integrated education across the whole of the school. This structure is being augmented with these new roles with effect from January 1998.

Senior Teacher/Assessment Officer

£25,283 per annum

We are looking for an enthusiastic and well-motivated person for this new post as an Assessment Officer. You will oversee all aspects of assessment and preparation of effective educational programs and care plans, and be a leading professional advising on best practice in the aspect of Special Education. Experience of pupils with a visual impairment or with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties would be desirable. Teacher's conditions apply on call duties.

You will need:

- Teacher with extensive knowledge and experience of Special Needs (Min three years)
- Developed leadership qualities
- Experience of team working and team development
- Sound organisational skills
- Commitment to staff training and staff guidance development

Domestic Bursar/Site Manager

£19,449 per annum (new role subject to job evaluation)

With this new post we require a skilled team member who will take lead responsibilities for organisation of premises, grounds maintenance, catering services, domestic services and transport services.

You will need:

- Proven leadership skills
- Five years management experience
- Presentation skills
- Ability to work on projects, research, analysis, recommend solutions
- Report writing
- Demonstrable knowledge in one or more, of the following service areas: property and building, catering and domestic and residential hospitality.
- 5 weeks paid holiday apply.

For further details and an application form please contact: The Head Teacher, Meldreth Manor School, Fenny Lane, Meldreth, Royston, Herts. SG8 6LG. Tel: 01763 260771. CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date for applications: 22nd December 1997.

Interviews will be held early in January 1998.

We welcome applications from people with disabilities and are committed to Investors in People.

Putting Pupils First

We are committed to equal opportunities.

SCOPE
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Registered Charity No. 208231

TEACHER TRAINING AGENCY

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE ROLE OF EXTERNAL REVIEWER OF COMPLAINTS

The Teacher Training Agency (TTA) invites applications for the post of External Reviewer. The successful applicant will review, on request, complaints made against the TTA and will be independent of the Agency.

Candidates should have experience of the following areas: funding bodies, higher education and preferably, arbitration. The appointment will be for an initial fixed period of three years. The workload will vary but it is not expected to exceed ten days per annum. A daily fee will be paid and travel and other expenses will be met.

The Teacher Training Agency has a central role in the Government's drive to raise standards in schools. Established in 1994, it aims to improve the quality of teaching, raise standards of teacher training and promote teaching as a profession.

For further information and an application form, please call GUY LONGHORN on 0171 273 6194, or write to him at the Department for Education and Employment, Level 5, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA.

Completed application forms should be returned with a CV by Friday 9 January 1998.



EASTER REVISION

EASTER COURSES AT HERTFORD COLLEGE OXFORD

A-LEVEL & GCSE

For a Prospectus call: 01865 342670

Cherwell Tutors

Oxford OX1 1LD

POSTS

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
James Bibby Chair of Engineering Manufacture

The Faculty is seeking to strengthen its research interests in aspects of engineering which relate to manufacturing and wishes to fill the James Bibby Chair of Engineering Manufacture in the Department of Engineering on or before the retirement of Professor W M Steen in September 1998. Among the existing activities which we are keen to develop are laser engineering, aerospace engineering, manufacturing technology and materials processing. The successful candidate would enjoy substantial support within a department whose research groups were rated 5*, 5 and 4 in the recent 1996 RAE exercise. He/she would be expected to provide world-class research leadership, to foster and further enhance close links with industry, government, the EU and other research groups in the Faculty of Engineering, and to develop postgraduate and post-experience courses in the discipline. Salary negotiable. Informal enquiries may be made to the Head of Department, Professor D J Bacon (djbacon@liverpool.ac.uk, 0151 794 4661) or the Dean, Professor P J Goodfellow (deaneng@liverpool.ac.uk, 0151 794 4920).

Quote Ref: B/852/T Closing Date: 9th January 1998

Further particulars and details of the application procedure may be requested from the Director of Personnel, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX on 0151 794 2210 (24 hr answerphone) or via email: jobs@liverpool.ac.uk

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics
Centre for Intelligent Monitoring Systems (CIMS)
Research Assistant

Initial salary within the range £15,159 - £16,927 pa. Applications are invited from graduates to work within the newly established Centre on new sensing techniques for monitoring liquid fuel for aviation applications. The research is being sponsored by a major UK aviation organisation and is tenable for one year in the first instance. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor G R Jones, Director of the Centre on 0151 794 4523.

Quote Ref: B/850/T Closing Date: 22 December 1997

Further particulars and details of the application procedure may be requested from the Director of Personnel, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX on 0151 794 2210 (24 hr answerphone) or via email: jobs@liverpool.ac.uk

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS REVISION

JANUARY START

A Level & GCSE Christmas Revision

With over 40 years experience of building confidence, Duff Miller are now offering intensive Christmas revision courses. A complete coverage of syllabus material coupled with extensive examination technique and practice. All of this tested by a full mock examination.

A Level & GCSE January Start

Duff Miller has a limited number of places available at GCSE and in the sixth form for January 1998.

Applications are welcomed from students who wish to continue their studies in a rigorous and supportive environment.

For further details and an application form please contact: The Head Teacher, Meldreth Manor School, Fenny Lane, Meldreth, Royston, Herts. SG8 6LG. Tel: 01763 260771. CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date for applications: 22nd December 1997. Interviews will be held early in January 1998.

We welcome applications from people with disabilities and are committed to Investors in People.

Putting Pupils First

We are committed to equal opportunities.

SCOPE
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Registered Charity No. 208231

EASTER REVISION at CATS

With examinations fast approaching, an intensive programme of revision and exam preparation, in small groups, helps students succeed at GCSE and A-Level.

For further information please contact: 01223 314431

CATS Round Church Street Cambridge CB2 8AD

LONDON (SCS) 020 7555 5555

LONDON (S) 020 7555 5555

BIRMINGHAM 0121 255 5555

CAMBRIDGE 01223 314431

REVISION 01223 314431

www.lifelonglearning.co.uk

RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS

TRINITY HALL, Cambridge
Nightingale Studentships
PhD Research in the Field of Mental Health

Trinity Hall invites applications for the above Studentships, which were established in memory of the late Michael Nightingale, a member of the College who died in 1991, and are funded from his bequest. They are open to all qualified graduates, of whatever university and whatever nationality, who wish to conduct doctoral research at Cambridge (or are already engaged in such research) in the field of mental health.

It would be a condition of the award of the Nightingale studentship that the successful applicant be admitted as a postgraduate research student by the Board of Graduate Studies of the University of Cambridge and be, or become, a member of Trinity Hall. Preference will be given to applicants who wish to conduct research into the operation of the Court of Protection, but the College is prepared to consider any topic that falls within, or is appropriately related to, the field of mental health law.

The amount of the grant (including fees and maintenance and reasonable research costs) will be at full-cost level. Studentships may be held for up to three years (with effect from 1 October 1998).

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from: The Master, Trinity Hall, Cambridge CB2 1TL. Enquiries may be made by post, by fax (01223 462116) or by e-mail (djc24@cam.ac.uk) but not by telephone. The closing date for receipt of the completed application forms is 31 March 1998. Please quote Ref: NS/THES.

INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL
Wimbledon Common, SW19 4TT
SIXTH FORM ENTRY 1998

for boys born between 1.9.81 and 31.8.82
HMC 720 boys, 300 in Sixth Form

KCS regularly admits a small number of well-qualified boys after GCSE and now invites applications for next September.

Scholarships may be offered to boys of outstanding promise. These have a maximum value of 50% of the tuition fee but additional means-tested bursary assistance may also be available.

For further details about entry in September 1998, please contact The Registration Secretary 0181 255 5352

KCS, registered charity no. 310024, exists to provide education for children.

COURSES

MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
A CAREER IN COMPUTERS

Make it happen - make the break - you could have the aptitude to move into a highly paid job in computers.

Make the first move now - fill in the coupon below, or telephone 0800 657 657 today. In return we'll send you free information about our proven learning system and how we've placed hundreds of people, regardless of their age, sex or qualifications in rewarding computer careers. We'll also send you information about employment prospects and a career planner. Fill it in and we'll be able to advise you on your potential.

- a valuable service FREE OF CHARGE. FREEPOST COMPUTEACH

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms Tel _____ Age _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Occupation _____

Ex 1994 Computerach International Ltd. Reg. No. 12824

TRAIN NOW. PAY LATER.

A BANK CHEQUE DATE 2nd March 1998

Career Development Loan

First Repayment

www.lifelonglearning.co.uk

With a Career Development Loan you can borrow from £300 to £8,000 and not pay anything back until you finish your education or training. Your course can last up to 3 years and can include work experience. The loans are Government Sponsored from selected High Street Banks. For more information call 0800 585505 for an information pack or send the coupon to Career Development Loans, Freepost, Newcastle-upon-Tyne X NE85 1BR.

Name (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ TYS/CS

FREE YOUR POTENTIAL WITH A CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOAN.

MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

HEAD

The Governors invite applications for the Headship of the School, which becomes vacant on 1st September 1998,

following the appointment of Miss Elizabeth Diggory as High Mistress of St Paul's Girls' School.

Particulars of the appointment can be obtained from

The Clerk to the Governors, Manchester High School for Girls, Grangethorpe Road, Manchester M14 6HS.

Telephone 0161-224 0447

The closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday January 23rd.

EDUCATION

A rural life seems ideal. But for the young, Fred Redwood says, it may be anything but

The horrors for a child of a country upbringing

To bring up children in a country village is the dream of many parents. Early years spent enjoying a Laurie Lee existence, carol-singing at Christmas and helping out on the farms in summer seem far removed from the inner-city ambience of drugs and street violence. But is this merely a romantic dream?

This week's report by the Rural Development Commission suggested that for many people it is. Facilities taken for granted by town dwellers were often absent in the countryside. Education was high on the list of potential problems because, despite a 17 per cent increase in population over 20 years, almost half of the 9,000 rural parishes had no school.

An earlier investigation by The Children's Society (*Same Scenery, Different Lifestyle*) found that even where schools do exist, many children are extremely frustrated by country life. They feel isolated and bored when they cannot visit friends or travel to clubs for lack of public transport. Several described their lives as negative and short on opportunities. So serious is the problem that many head teachers of rural schools have set up initiatives to help to solve the special problems experienced by country children.

Eric Jones is the head of Bro Myrddin School, Llandell, a comprehensive in Mid Wales where the curriculum is taught in Welsh. This 820-pupil school has a huge catchment area, drawing from 30 feeder primary schools in the surrounding rural communities. Children commonly undertake 40-mile round trips between school and home every day. The travel itself causes difficulties because very few children can stay after school for extracurricular activities. Mr Jones says: "Our children know very few of their year group when they arrive here. An ideal way for them to make friends would be by joining after-school clubs, but travel ar-

rangements make that impossible. The school buses have to leave at the end of school, so there is a danger that some of our children could remain socially isolated. To counter this, we decided to break the ice for these youngsters. Before they even start at the school, we run a residential course for the 150 pupils who transfer to us each year.

"The bridging course is mainly a bonding experience, with recreational and academic pursuits. It is staffed by sixth-formers and staff from the primary and the secondary schools, so that socialising problems can be nipped in the bud."

A similar situation exists at Pothair School, St Austell, Cornwall. There, a child from one of the more remote farms may meet nobody else of a similar age outside school hours from one week to the next. The school encourages these pupils to socialise during "twilight time" — a curriculum enhancement period between 3.15pm and 3.45pm every day. Mike Stevenson, the head teacher, says: "The aim is to encourage the children to socialise and it has been very successful. We first conducted a survey to find out exactly what children wanted to take part in. There was an enthusiasm for a wide range of different clubs, ranging from girls' rugby and roller-blading to computer studies. Now we seldom encounter the kind of timid child who is overawed by the size of the comprehensive, although we are still alert to the problem. 'School phobia' is dealt with as a subject of special provision."

In Newbury, Berkshire, the problems faced by country children have resulted in an "outreach" counselling service being started. The "Time to Talk" workers operate in the rural schools, listening to the problems of children living in the beautiful downland villages between Newbury and Oxford. It is hardly an area one would associate with adolescent angst

They live in a pretty village, so it's assumed they'll cope



A childhood in the midst of nature: the reality is not always so delightful

and social misery, yet Theresa Bell, the outreach leader, is kept busy. She has identified some common problems among the village children. "In a close-knit community each child is very visible and vulnerable," she says. "So if one child falls out with the local kids there is no opportunity to move into a new friendship group, as would happen in a town. Being the odd one out then makes bullying a real possibility."

"The school bus journey is also an issue. Boredom can lead to horseplay, which can lead to bullying. These journeys are a hotbed of problems."

"Incoming children to a rural area may also find problems. Strangers are not always welcomed by country people and

setting into a small community may not be easy. Curiously, though, the biggest frustration experienced by country children is their inability to get others to take their problems seriously. Everyone assumes they have an idyllic existence and people forget that they face the same adolescent problems as everyone else."

"Their parents may split up; they have problems at school and they have relationship difficulties just like city children. But because they live in a pretty village everyone assumes they can cope."

"In fact, it may be doubly difficult for them because their friends, who can provide support, probably live a long way away and they may be unable to meet up and talk."

How a tough line is putting the clock back on race

New approaches to multicultural difficulties will not work, writes John Eggleston

This year's conference of the National Anti-Racist Movement in Education attracted about 20 delegates. At its peak, before it changed its name from the National Association for Multicultural Education, its annual gathering regularly attracted between 200 and 300 of the most committed educators. They were concerned to minimise the differences in the achievements between black children and white, seeing it as one of the greatest social inequalities, and wanting to do something to alleviate it.

Ten years on, some of the differences are being overcome. The impressive improvements in the achievements of British Indian children are well-documented. But Bangladeshi children, as a group, still do very poorly and there is much concern about the low achievement of many Caribbean British children, notably boys. Yet the sensitive, culturally aware approach that was developed and effectively implemented in some education authorities in the early 1980s is widely discredited.

Instead, we have repeated exhortations of zero tolerance of failure, and views such as "They're here, so they should be treated all alike" being expressed by governments past and present. And the new Government's White Paper on *Excellence in Education* devoted only one page to all issues of ethnicity and schooling.

Why this marginalisation of almost 10 per cent of the school population? It isn't because sensitive approaches do not work: the Department for Education and Employment is funding research based at the Open University which is studying schools where such approaches are working well for all children. And in roughly the same period, a parallel problem, the lower achievement of girls in science and technology, has been mostly solved, evidently the result of "girl-friendly" approaches.

Alas, there is nothing friendly about the anti-racist ideology that now claims to be the only viable way to overcome ethnic underachievement. It is deliberately hard-edged in approach, arguing that the old gentle, gradual path of multicultural education was too slow and should be replaced by a tough, challenging strategy.

The change of emphasis was taken up by a small but vocal group of radical

practitioners. Despite the good intentions of most of its advocates, it was almost predictable that a few excesses of the new zeal would be widely reported and given a "hooray left" tag.

Much more serious was the effect on teachers. The vast majority are resistant to the politicisation of their teaching, especially when many were pilloried as being either manifestly or latently racist. The net result was often that less, rather than more, anti-racism took place, as teachers distanced themselves from what they saw as unjust criticism.

This distancing was all the more worrying because it occurred at precisely the same time as public concern about education and achievement reached new peaks.

What can be done? The priority must be to diminish the confrontations set up by anti-racism — the conflict between "experts" and teachers, the conflict between teachers and teachers, and above all, the conflict in the classroom, where, in some inner-city schools, students now challenge rather than co-operate with teachers. We must reinvent racially friendly and teacher-and-pupil friendly approaches.

Such approaches would recognise that Britain has truly become a multicultural society and that pedagogy and the interpretation of curriculum must take this into account. But it must also be recognised that high achievement is the common goal of children and parents from all ethnic backgrounds — provided that they are able to believe that they have the opportunity and support to reach that objective.

In the United States, this approach has been dominant for almost half a century and, despite many vicissitudes, its achievements throughout the nation are impressive. And there the commonly used slogan is multicultural education for a multicultural society.

Now that our Government is rediscovering concepts such as equality, inclusiveness and opportunity in education, we should also rediscover the true meaning of a multicultural education and use it to achieve the reconceptualisation that has eluded us for so long.

John Eggleston is Professor of Education at Warwick University.

Safety lessons children will learn for life

How can the young cope with danger? A two-week course gives answers, says Jenny Knight

"Sorry, you've died in the fire," Ralf Nicholson, of the London Fire Brigade, told the ten-year-olds who had just dashed back into a "burning house" to rescue a baby. Mr Nicholson and other experts have been giving lessons in danger to more than 900 Year Six children from Lewisham primary schools at the Bridge Leisure Centre in South London.

The two-week course uses 11 stage sets representing different hazards, from a railway line to a building site, to let the children show how they would cope with an emergency. Even the most streetwise pupils allowed themselves to be abducted by a stranger, tackled a chip-pan fire the wrong way, ran into burning buildings and failed to spot all the potential dangers in a kitchen.

PC Roy Wood, the co-ordinator, said: "The aim is to reinforce safety messages and to help the children learn from the experience of maybe choosing the wrong option. They get a lot of information, from the importance of wearing bright clothes at night to how to deal with accidents."

Claire Adams, 21, a probationary policewoman, played the role of the smooth-talking "stranger" when 23 children from St Augustine's RC School in Bellingham arrived for their afternoon at the centre. She waylaid the children in pairs as they went up a stairway. By claiming to be on the staff of the leisure centre, she persuaded most of the children to tell her their names and addresses and whether they walk to school on their own. Then she asked one of the children to go into a room for a fitness test. As she led the child off, Geoff Best, a uniformed constable, came to the rescue, explaining to the mortified youngsters that strangers do not always look sinister.

PC Best said: "We remind them to stay out of reach of a stranger, but if they are approached to get ready to run and to say: 'I'm sorry, I've been told not to speak to strangers.' When they arrive for the session they are told not to talk to anyone not wearing a uniform or a badge, but de-



Coping with emergencies such as fire should be part of schooling

spite that most of them will be drawn into a conversation. These acting sessions made me realise how easy it is to talk children into going with a stranger. We show them that strangers who might hurt them will initially seem unthreatening and plausible."

Ralf Nicholson, a firefighter, uncovered a similar tendency for the children to exercise poor judgment when leaving a burning building. His sudden shout of "There's a baby left inside" prompted most children to mount an heroic rescue, instead of using the phone in the road to dial 999.

self by giving PC Best an accurate description of the "kidnapper". Jack said: "It was a bit unfair because I thought she was another of the people working here. We would have been more suspicious if she had spoken to us in the street."

His classmates, Sean Winter and Stacey Barcoe, passed the "talk to a stranger" test with flying colours by refusing to talk to one until reassured by the police that I was a reporter. Both declined to pull a victim from the railway and did not run back into the building for the baby — but still managed to "die" in the fire.

Sean said: "We were told to feel the doorknob to see whether it was hot before opening a door on to the fire. Stacey felt it, but only for a second. Then we opened the door. If the fire had been right outside the room, we should have kept the door closed because it will hold a fire back for about 15 minutes and the fire brigade usually arrives quickly."

All the children, on the Junior Citizens course, sponsored by Lewisham council, practised phoning emergency services to give them experience of the questions they are likely to be asked.

Janet Fox, an accident prevention specialist for Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark Health Authority, stocked a kitchen with an astounding array of hazards, including bleach in lemonade bottles, an aerosol spray on the oven and a dangerous iron. Most children spotted several hazards but few knew the right way to tackle a chip-pan fire — most opting to throw water on it, which spreads the flames. Others "electrocuted" themselves, when asked how they would free a piece of toast jammed in the toaster, by reaching for a knife to plunge into the toaster before switching off the electricity.

The annual Junior Citizens courses started in Greenwich ten years ago and spread to other London boroughs and into the Home Counties. Until last year, most were sponsored by BT, but now the survival of the schemes depends on individual sponsorship.

Jack Griffith and Francine Lemard, both ten, fell into conversation with the stranger on the stairs, but redeemed them-

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

EUROPEAN SHORT BREAKS FROM £24



View of Santa Maria delle Salute in Venice, left, and above the Piazza Navona, Rome

This week *The Times*, with Leisure Direction, offers readers the chance to take a short break in Europe from just £24 per person, which includes one night's accommodation and return fare. Our money saving packages are available for travel up to March 31, 1998. Simply collect four of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* this week and attach them to the booking form which will be published tomorrow.

How the offer works
All prices shown are based on the first night's accommodation, sharing a twin/double room on a bed and breakfast or room only basis, and includes the return fare for your chosen method of transport.

• The first price listed is travel by car • The second is travel by Eurostar • The third is travel by air • The fourth price quoted is for additional nights • The last figure is the number of free child (under 12) accommodation places.

THE TIMES EURO BREAKS
TOKEN 5

AUSTRIA

VIENNA

Hotel Regency *****

Charming, traditional hotel close to the historic centre. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Grabner Hotel *****

Close to the cathedral and one of the main shopping streets.

Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Hotel Royal *****

Traditional Viennese hotel with the largest collection of Italian wines in Austria. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Hotel Harnisch *****

Stylish hotel close to St Stephen's cathedral. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Prague Hilton *****

Large, modern hotel with restaurant, casino and indoor pool.

BB £24 n/a £223 £36 1

City Hotel Miram *****

Short walk to Wenceslas Square. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £223 £37 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

HUNGARY

BUDAPEST

Hotel Regency *****

Charming, traditional hotel close to the historic centre. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Grabner Hotel *****

Close to the cathedral and one of the main shopping streets.

Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Hotel Royal *****

Traditional Viennese hotel with the largest collection of Italian wines in Austria. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Hotel Harnisch *****

Stylish hotel close to St Stephen's cathedral. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Prague Hilton *****

Large, modern hotel with restaurant, casino and indoor pool.

BB £24 n/a £223 £36 1

City Hotel Miram *****

Short walk to Wenceslas Square. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £223 £37 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

ITALY

FLORINCE

Hotel Regency *****

Charming, traditional hotel close to the historic centre. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Grabner Hotel *****

Close to the cathedral and one of the main shopping streets.

Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Hotel Royal *****

Traditional Viennese hotel with the largest collection of Italian wines in Austria. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Hotel Harnisch *****

Stylish hotel close to St Stephen's cathedral. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Prague Hilton *****

Large, modern hotel with restaurant, casino and indoor pool.

BB £24 n/a £223 £36 1

City Hotel Miram *****

Short walk to Wenceslas Square. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £223 £37 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

VENICE

VENICE

Hotel Regency *****

Charming, traditional hotel close to the historic centre. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Grabner Hotel *****

Close to the cathedral and one of the main shopping streets.

Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Hotel Royal *****

Traditional Viennese hotel with the largest collection of Italian wines in Austria. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Hotel Harnisch *****

Stylish hotel close to St Stephen's cathedral. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £199 £25 1

Prague Hilton *****

Large, modern hotel with restaurant, casino and indoor pool.

BB £24 n/a £223 £36 1

City Hotel Miram *****

Short walk to Wenceslas Square. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

BB £24 n/a £223 £37 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

Hotel Amstel *****

Over 450 original paintings line the walls. BB £49 n/a £228 £44 1

VENICE

VENICE

Hotel Regency *****

Charming, traditional hotel close to the historic centre. Christmas/New Year supplements on request.

'Aim high and aim right. Be ambitious. And don't be afraid to look dead expensive'

Maggie Brown talks to a woman in the BBC's male-dominated upper stratum who is destined for high office at the corporation

Jana Bennett is small and resilient with an American twang to her voice. She bustles into her office — which is strewn with bowls of fresh fruit — late in a workday trouser suit, looking anything but a powerbroker.

Those who worked alongside her as she has risen from lowly Sheffield-based BBC news trainee to award-winning department head say that she is a bit scatty and untidy — but driven.

In conversation, she can ramble idiosyncratically before coming (eventually) to the point. After hours in her company, over dinner, in her office, the first impression holds true: she is not a typical corporate player. In fact, there is nobody quite like her at the top of the BBC. And that is her charm and her strength. She is a breath of fresh air.

This autumn she emerged in a crucial post, just one small rung below the top of the BBC programme-making empire.

In corporate speak, Bennett, 41, has replaced Alan Yentob as director of production. She is openly being groomed to become the next chief executive of BBC Production, when her boss, the stalwart Ron Neil, decides to retire. Her task is to lead and inspire 4,000 producers and staff who are organised into 18 different departments (soon to be reduced in number) as they supply £600 million of programmes to the BBC channels — everything from *EastEnders* to *Webbies* in the multimedia era. It's a bit of a super-saleswoman job, "I am," she says, "in sync with the channel controllers."

It would be hopeless if she were not. The role is newish, but the pressures are constant. It requires a strong, hustling personality, someone with the confidence to leap on trends to keep the BBC's channel controllers asking for more.

As for her management style? "Direct verbal coupling," she replies deadpan. "Talking to people is a very good idea."

Why Bennett? Well, 12 million viewers are regularly charmed by one of her biggest hits, *Animal Hospital*. The quaint mixture of poorly hamstrung, tearful pet-owners having to put down Rover, and the grizzled Rolf Harris provides perfect family entertainment.

The BBC, despite Birtist-imposed management gobbledegook, respects and promotes executives, even oddballs, when their departments have the effrontery to put together such mixtures.

Bennett moved into the fast track of BBC Television three years ago when she became head of its Science Department. This group also embraced business features, which have increasingly focused on people rather than statistics. It began

with Sir John Harvey-Jones's *Trouble-shooter* and progressed to the current *Back to the Floor*. She was lucky. Science output doubled under her, assisted by a general climate within BBC Television wishing to make amends for underplaying science coverage.

But Bennett expanded her department's output from the traditional strands of *Horizon* and *Antenna*, which she had previously edited, and *Tomorrow's World*, by going pop. In *Out of This World*, the BBC Science Department unashamedly leapt onto the paranormal bandwagon. Moreover, during a heated Edinburgh Television Festival debate last year, she launched such a fluent defence of the genre that the audience broke into applause.

In the great Birtist shake-up of 1996, when broadcasting, commissioning and scheduling channels were divided from programme-making, she was invited to apply to become Controller of BBC2. She didn't get it. Mark Thompson, the current BBC Controller, did. But the resulting

backlash which produced an upper BBC stratum dominated by men made her claims difficult to overlook.

Her performance at Edinburgh was revealing. There is, as one executive noted, something fearless about Bennett. She says her strengths include the ability to focus, to switch off and to manage on a small amount of sleep. She is a "fair-weather" cyclist and loves mountaineering.

But can she survive on the heady peak, in the notoriously male-dominated upper reaches of BBC corporate life, which spat out Liz Forgan and cowed other promising women into shadowy figures?

Corporate board meetings are, she observes, hard. "Is there a style... which is male? Yes there is." But then she described an exchange at the board of management, the BBC's top policy forum, on which she sits. The members had been discussing the pattern of Friday nights, when young men are thought to order a Chinese takeaway, settle down with a bottle and watch a series of comedies, on — they hope — BBC. "I said, 'so do I'. Then the other women around the table said that they did it, too."

Bennett, in true Austen heroine fashion, is the middle of five daughters, born to the dean of admissions to New England College, New Hampshire. She had the liberal, literary upbringing that came with the territory. When she was 13 her father decided to tour Europe on half-pay for a year, taking his children out of school. He returned to America to convince the college that he should open an



Jana Bennett: once a lowly BBC trainee, now being groomed to become the next chief executive of BBC Production

English branch in Arundel, West Sussex.

At the age of 14, Bennett and three of her sisters were transported to Bognor Regis, to a house next to the Butlin's holiday camp: she completed her schooling at Bognor Comprehensive, went on to take PPE at St Anne's College, Oxford, and an MSc at the London School of Economics.

"It was a culture shock," she recalls. "I'd lived in a small American village. I hated it for the first two years." She has preserved her accent — a sign of not being fully assimilated. Her father said: "I'll support you in whatever educational opportunities you have, on condition that you elope. Don't expect me to pay for the wedding."

With a guffaw, she describes how she got married in a quickie ceremony in Las Vegas two years ago to her partner, Richard Clemenow, head of BBC News and author of the infamous memo temporarily demoting programme editors to assistants, which led to the now famous presenters' revolt and an intervention by Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman.

She says "the wedding was totally on the spur of the moment," but was suggested by their daughter, Alexandra, now six (there is also a son, Skomer, three). The value of having a large family remains. Her youngest sister, her cameraman husband and two children, live next door in East Acton, minutes from Television Centre. They have a communal

garden and the children play together. "We've got the bulk without the effort," she says.

So, what does she bring to this most challenging of jobs? She rattles out her dictums. "Aim high, aim right. Be ambitious, and don't be afraid to look dead expensive or to make fantastically chirpy programmes."

Before moving from the Science Department she took her own advice, commissioning the most expensive documentary (a £9 million co-production) ever made by the BBC. Called *Walking With Dinosaurs*, it is using *Jurassic Park*'s digital animators to reproduce their life.

She also wants "to facilitate a more creative climate," and touched upon the devastating speech delivered by Tony Garnett, *This Life*'s drama producer, last month, pleading for respect and improved conditions for writers and creative talent. "We wouldn't ignore what he has to say," she promises.

In developments now being plotted within BBC Production, executive producers are to be given a freer access to development money, to build up their portfolio. She comments: "They should not feel hemmed in."

They are also going to be encouraged to talk directly to the various channel controllers, who commission pro-

grammes, to discuss their ideas. She is also planning to have fewer departments working across wider fields of expertise, so that hybrids are created. She insists she is not trying to "super-manage" or second-guess perfectly well-run departments.

Only last month BBC Production opportunistically merged TV and Radio sports production, supplying Radio 5 Live and TV sporting events.

Her biggest challenge is twofold. She has to flesh out the unequal relationship between the two great wings of the BBC — broadcasting, which holds the cheque-books, and her programme-makers. The great split in effect dissolved obligations. But these are being reformulated. The new phrase, which trips handily from her tongue, is that everyone is "part of the BBC family".

BBC Production has won an understanding from broadcasting that 60 per cent of commissions by value will go to them, infuriating independent producers. The Controllers of BBC1 and BBC2 will sit on boards which appoint key executives within BBC Production to ensure that they are then committed to taking their programmes.

But the final challenge is whether her complete lack of experience in drama and entertainment, the big spenders and audience-pullers, and areas needing special attention, will tell against her. Is a bit with cuddly animals preparation enough?

Making a date on the air

TV and lonely hearts ads. Virginia Matthews reports

Britain's first television ad campaign for telephone dating will be aired in the new year after a three-year battle by the 1991 lonely hearts industry to overturn a longstanding TV ban.

The 30-second ad, for Victoria Telecom's "Speak Easy" service — where the lonely are put in contact with each other for 50p a minute — marks what Chris Bradbury, the managing director, calls "the first stage in our bid to gain public acceptance for a much-maligned service".

More than 15 million chatline or telephone dating calls are made in Britain each year. While the entire sector has been repeatedly accused of peddling filth, not to mention running up huge phone bills, the telephone watchdog ICSTS believes that the industry has cleaned up its act in recent months.

Victoria Telecom is one of the country's top five date and chatline companies with a turnover in excess of £25 million. Its ad will show "fully dressed men and women over the age of 18 enjoying getting to know each other over the phone in a non-pressured environment".

In deference to the ITC code, which forbids the exploitation of "emotional vulnerability", or anything that appears to "encourage or condone promiscuity", the voiceover will talk about the values of friendship, romance and love.

But according to the industry's critics, who include the Society of Marriage Bureaux, telephone dating is all about sex. Its director, Penrose Halson, says the relaxation of the ban on TV commercials for telephone dating is "legitimising a potentially dubious industry" and should be reversed.

Ms Halson fears that many people who resort to 0891/0895 services "end up feeling exploited and ripped off, not to mention more lonely than ever".

Glyn Picton, chairman of the Telephone Dating Services Association, counters that the fees charged by traditional introduction agencies or marriage bureaux — anything from £300 to £600 for initial introductions — are out of reach of most people, and involve weeks of "frustrating screening by third parties".

He says: "If you're a lonely gay person or unhappily married, you may not want to be given the stark choice of braving the local disco or shelling out £500 for a list of people that some marriage broker believes will be suitable."

The ITC's decision to relax its rules on the dating industry reflects what a commission spokesman calls a "fundamental switch in society's attitude to dating" which today is seen as a way of making new friends, rather than an automatic route to the altar.

While it continues to ban ads for escort agencies, the ITC takes the view that advances in telephone technology such as number screening have reduced the potential security risks of telephone dating.

The ad for Victoria Telecom poses unusual creative problems for the team behind it. Mr Bradbury says:

"Being the first ad, the watchwords will be keeping a close eye on it," he says, "and that means no naked torsos, no women in low-cut blouses or anything remotely suggestive in either the film or the voiceover."

Mr Picton concedes that sexually orientated telephone calls are a fact of life in his industry, but adds: "I think you'll find that the ads for my members' services will be about as raunchy as Mary Poppins."

■ **PERPLEXED** BBC News executives have spent the past two days discussing how to react to a massive programme strategy review on why its main news programmes are a turn-off. The problem is that ungrateful audiences do not appreciate the huge investment in specialist journalists that John Birt insisted on ten years ago, as he forced BBC coverage upmarket.

They are asking for less politics and foreign coverage, fewer lectures on macroeconomics. Michael Hutchinson's funeral at the top, not the bottom, of the *Nine O'Clock News*.

■ **ONE** of the most depressing things is that audience research says we are only a bit more authoritative than ITN, says my glum source.



A special edition of *Nationwide*, which was presented by children in December 1980

It's nine o'clock — turn off the news

Mischief-making



largely wasted: young viewers may never get the BBC news habit. And as BBC1 becomes ever more ratings-driven, the comparative failure of news becomes ever more apparent.

■ **ONE** of the BBC's problems is that the broadcast newspapers on which John

Birt modelled its approach in 1987 have moved on, merely reporting seedy human interest stories we all read. It is said that Birt thinks there is only one true broadsheet left, the *Financial Times*. Yet word reaches me that the Pink 'Un feels a need to be "touchy feely", too. Its research apparently shows that readers don't twice as great warmth towards its weekday editions, though, if it's any consolation, the austere Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Ofcom, told me how much he admired the *Lex* column for its brevity and depth. So the *FT*'s UK edition is planning to greet the new year with a big redesign, aimed at making its features more appealing. A City health and problem page by next Christmas?

■ **RADIO 4's** presenters are

getting uppity... As the huge April 1 shake-up in the schedule draws nearer, many of the most famous voices are sounding strained. Melvyn Bragg, whose beloved *Start the Week* is being cut to half an hour and restricted to two guests, has signed up for only 13 weeks. Laurie Taylor, a broadcaster on Radio 4 for 20 years, currently on the doomed *Afternoon Shift*, says he has yet to find a regular new berth. The five cultured presenters of *Kaleidoscope*

(Paul Allen, Paul Vaughan, Paul Gambaccini, Lynne Walker, Tim Marlow) are being dispensed with when the arts strand is replaced with a snazzier, shorter 7pm slot. Will *The Guardian's* Mark Lawson stand in? Jenni Murray, the honeyed voice of *Woman's Hour*, is thought to be restless, too: just "rumours", she says. What I know is this: my phone has been red hot with Radio 4 stalwarts who believe that the complete overhaul

which started last July is not going smoothly, no matter what assurances the BBC's governors are given. And go, there are entire slots and programmes seeking both inspiration and presenters.

■ **A COMMERCIAL** for Harvester restaurants is being investigated by the Broadcasting Standards Commission after a viewer said it was "sexually suggestive". The commercial shows

a couple silently sharing a £14.99 Harvester platter. It is reminiscent of that scene in the 1962 film of *Tom Jones*, when Albert Finney and Joyce Redman acted out the most erotic meal on celluloid with chicken legs and luscious fruit — but with touches of *When Harry Met Sally* thrown in for good measure. To think Harvester spare ribs and king prawns could be that exciting!

■ **ON MONDAY** Sir Michael Bishop, Chairman of Channel 4, will preside over his last board meeting which is due to fix next year's budget. Another four directors, David Floorright, Bert Hardy, Sir David Nicholas and Mary McAleese (the new President of Ireland) will also bow out. But there is still no news on who is going to fill the gaps. Everyone involved knows there should have been a shadow chairman for the past few months, since Channel 4 is bedding in a new team under its chief executive, Michael Jackson. "It really is a mess," says one director crossly, though interviews are under way. Word has it that Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, is ready and willing, and would provide the commercial experience deemed essential to balance Jackson's creative input.

Chisholm with party a

ADVERTISE CALL 01431 4431

Direct Sales Man

SALES & MA

مكتبة النور

Chisholm bows out with party at Annabel's

On Wednesday night they marked the end of an era in British broadcasting with some style in Annabel's club in London's Berkeley Square. As it was relatively short — only seven years — but there is no doubt that British broadcasting was permanently changed as a result. They were there to pay a fond farewell to Sam Chisholm, until a few weeks ago chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite television venture.

If a terrible accident had struck Annabel's on Wednesday, a large slice of the media's top brass would have been wiped out. On Sam Chisholm's left sat Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada and BSkyB, and on his right Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Communications and of British Digital Broadcasting, the digital terrestrial television venture which plans to launch more than a dozen new channels next year.

Around the club were littered those who had helped Chisholm to make BSkyB the most profitable broadcaster in Europe, if not the most powerful, and those he had jostled with over the years — such as Will Wyatt from the BBC, Bob Phillips, the new chairman of the Guardian Media Group, and Don Cruickshank, the strong-minded Director-General of Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator.

In a eloquent testimony to what BSkyB has done for football, and football has done for BSkyB, the directors' box at Annabel's contained not just Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, but also Sir John Hall, the man who transformed Newcastle United.

In his tribute, Gerry Robinson scarcely needed to say that Chisholm had taken over "one hell of a mess" when worried shareholders had arranged the shotgun marriage of Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting. Then the combined company was bleeding £14 million a week in losses. Now the profits of BSkyB, (in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake) are running at more than £6 million a week. And Chisholm and BSkyB carved out £1 billion a year of revenue for a pay-television market in the UK that nobody had seriously tapped before.

"I don't think anyone else could have done it in quite the same way," said Robinson.

But for all the jollity — Bob Monkhouse told the jokes and Sir David Frost was the questionmaster for a *thock University*

Challenge, "The Chisholm Challenge" — there was an air of finality about the whole thing. Guests received a piece of silver with the dates 1990-97 and thanks from Sam inscribed on it.

Although Chisholm has a two-year contract with BSkyB covering up to ten days a month of consultancy, it wouldn't be surprising if little formal consultancy actually takes place.

If he were to turn up at BSkyB ten days a month, he would still be running the place when the reins have actually been handed to the new chief executives, Mark Booth and Elisabeth Murdoch, both of whom were, of course, in their places at Annabel's. Meanwhile, the former chief executive of BSkyB has been devoting himself to the cause of ensuring that Peter Mandelson has a Millennium Dome in Greenwich for the right year and, apparently, getting involved in pay-television deals in Poland.

By coincidence this week also saw the coming to fruition of another of Chisholm's

projects — the launch of Sky Box Office, a pay-per-view movie service. It is a modest harbinger of the arrival of 200 channels of digital television next year when as many as 60 or 70 of them will be devoted to films on a pay-per-view basis.

Already, to see such films as *The Long Kiss Goodnight* and *Michael Collins* several months before they are screened on the normal subscription movie channels, viewers simply have to call a number and the system automatically "unscrambles" the film for viewing and bills them for £2.99.

The whole economics of 200-channel television will depend on the public's willingness to pay for such movies and exclusive sports events. Apart from having to persuade the audience to move from mere subscription television to pay-per-view television, the new management at BSkyB could run into a serious obstacle — in the shape of Sam Chisholm happily sipping his champagne on Wednesday evening.

What would happen if satellite dish owners turn out to be content with the 40 channels or so of television that Chisholm put together for them and turned out to be reluctant to migrate to 200 channels of digital — whatever discounts were provided?

That would indeed be a curious legacy for the 1990-97 era of British broadcasting.



Raymond Snoddy

A free bar is one agency's way of bonding staff after a merger, says Carol Midgley



HELLO BOYS.

THE ONE AND ONLY
Wonderbra

When the creative guru behind Wonderbra's famous "Hello Boys" poster left TBWA Simons Palmer after the merger, the client soon followed

Life after Wonderbra

In the vast reception area of TBWA Simons Palmer's new London headquarters is a plentifully stocked, licensed bar. Not any old bar, you understand. This one is free, providing unlimited alcohol for all staff and anyone else who happens to be passing through.

The bar, modelled on Virgin's first-class lounge at Heathrow, forms the frontpiece of the advertising agency which brought us Wonderbra, Goldfish and Nike.

The idea is to evoke a new mood of optimism and help staff to bond since the recent controversial merger between Simons Palmer Clemmow Johnson and Omnicom's TBWA. But if good morale was to be found lacking, it would hardly be surprising.

Since the merger, several high-profile clients have been lost amid a welter of publicity.

Trevor Beattie, the creative guru behind the "Hello Boys" Wonderbra posters, decided that he could not work under the new arrangement. He left, and Wonderbra, whose posters filled more newspaper gossip columns than any other last year, soon followed. Contracts for Wrigleys and the National Canine Defence League were the next to go.

Last week Nike, for which Simons Palmer had worked for seven years, transferred its UK business to its global agency Weiden & Kennedy. It was a particularly bitter blow. Simons Palmer had achieved stunning success for Nike with a host of award-winning campaigns and the acclaimed *Parklife* commercial featuring most Premier League players.

The agency coolly responded by taking out a two-page ad in *Campaign*, featuring all its Nike work with the caption: "All the best from TBWA Simons Palmer."

Paul Simons, chief executive of the agency, says: "It is true that there was a lot of anger over that because we had worked with them for seven years. When we first took on the business, Nike was a £400 million company here. Today it is a £400 million company. We took an obscure brand and made it a household name. And now they have decided to stop doing business and you think 'Well, thanks guys.'"

Nike spent about £10 million a year with Simons Palmer, but Simons is stoical, insisting that he always knew

Nike would drop them if Weiden & Kennedy opened a London operation. "This is not the worst thing we've had to cope with, believe me," he says.

"Our biggest crisis was losing British Telecom. We were only three years old and BT was spending £30 million a year with us. But a couple of weeks later we got a contract from *The Sun*."

"People can't operate in this world if they go around with a defeatist attitude. Mentally, you have to be like an athlete and learn to pick yourself up after a knock. After we lost Nike, the people here were upset momentarily but then they said, 'Oh well, to hell with it.'"

Simons said he had offered Beattie some of his personal shares to stay but he felt betrayed at not being told of the merger. Beattie had wanted to head the creative team but Simons told him it was impossible.

"Trevor is great but I had to think in terms of the whole agency and all the other creatives we have here. His leaving is another thing which just happens. Trevor's personal fame came from things like Wonderbra, which

was very high profile but in our terms, low in importance. It was only worth about £100,000, which is tiny relatively speaking."

The agency's biggest client is currently Nissan (which spends £50 million a year), and key clients such as Sony Playstation, *News of the World*, *The Sun* and Bally International. This month it will be pitching to Guinness and ITV.

By merging two very different agencies, the strategy is to become an international creative force and agency of the year in 1998. The free bar is the first stage in their bid to knit the two agencies together.

"I wanted something colourful and uplifting, to feel like a home. Someone said I should put £50,000 aside for one of those staff bonding weekends and I thought, why not just spend it on a free bar? If you want social glue, the best way to achieve it is to have people standing talking to each other. I want this agency to be warm, non-corporate and an antidote to all the others. We want to be the most successful and the most creative agency around. The more creative you are, the more the product sells."

TO ADVERTISE CALL
0171 481 4481

MEDIA, SALES & MARKETING

FAX:
0171 782 7826

Director Designate - Sales Management Consultancy

Buckinghamshire base

Could you build up and lead a new consultancy with the support of a famous brand name?

TACK Training International is Britain's leading sales and sales management training organisation with many thousands of clients in the UK and worldwide. We now wish to extend our services to provide a full management consultancy to Sales Directors on such topics as sales team organisation, rewards and incentives, and sales force automation systems.

If you have experience during the last 5 years of both consultancy and successful sales management (especially in IT or telecommunications) you could be the person we are looking for to develop TACK Management Consultants

into a substantial business. In the short term, while you are growing the business, you must be prepared to sell your own services personally and deliver top quality advice to demanding clients. This is an exceptional opportunity for an exceptional person and only ambitious "self-starters" should apply.

You will receive a good basic salary, an open-ended performance-related bonus, company car and other top level benefits.

Please send brief CV including recent earnings progression to Eric Pilling, Managing Director, TACK International Ltd., TACK House, Latimer Park, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1TR. Fax: 01494 765385.

TACK
International
Search & Selection

Can you bring Vision and Focus to a Communications Leader?

Senior Product Marketing Manager

OKI
People to People Technology

Based: Thames Valley

OKI Data Corporation, the electronics multinational, was established in 1981 and now has a revenue exceeding \$7 billion p.a. It is perhaps unique for a Japanese corporation in that it has a truly global culture with responsibility and authority shared fairly at a local level.

As a major part of the highly successful European operation, OKI Systems (UK) Limited enjoys the freedom of being an autonomous country operation whilst reaping the benefits of being part of a world leader that not only has ownership of its technology but is constantly progressing through its \$400 million annual spend on R&D.

Continued growth in their share of facsimile and printer markets, combined with a significant technical advantage in the quality colour page printer market, makes the immediate future one of the most exciting in the UK company's history.

OKI has created a completely new position for a Senior Product Marketing Manager who really understands major branding programmes and who has the focus, business knowledge and professional marketing flair necessary to make a significant contribution across this diverse organisation.

You would report to the Marketing Director and have responsibility for a multi-product portfolio. Demonstrable success in a high profile, technology orientated company would be desirable.

If you can meet the demands of this challenging role, then please write with full career and personal details and highlighting those parts of your background and personality that you feel are particularly relevant, to The Managing Director, Strategic Resource Solutions Limited, Solutions House, 12-13 Bridge Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1RR.



STRATEGIC RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

SALES & MARKETING DIRECTOR

North West

Capital Equipment

c. £40K
+ Bonus
+ Car

A core division (T/O c. £30m) within this listed plc, our client has manufacturing facilities in the UK and Germany which have an international reputation for precision engineered, high quality products. Flexible design capability enables the full satisfaction of customer needs within a niche, yet consistently growing, market sector.

The Role

- Direct and manage the sales & marketing activities to meet short term objectives and generate long term growth
- Manage and develop the international network of trading partners to ensure optimum coverage of each local market
- As a key member of the senior management team, contribute cross functionally on the formulation of a unified business strategy.

The Person

- Graduate calibre, possessing a demonstrable track record in successfully building and managing a sales team selling capital equipment to blue chip customers on a global basis
- Proven track record in managing international agent/distributor networks
- Able to build strong relationships with colleagues through effective application of communication, motivational and commercial management skills. A working understanding of German would be advantageous.

To apply, please write with a full CV, details of current salary and quoting ref. 951/ST to David Potter, BEM Nevard Roland, Corsos House, The Beechwoods Estate, Ednate Lane, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 2LQ. Tel: 0113 218 8000. Alternatively, send by fax on 0113 218 8020 or e-mail: wizard@nevard-roland.co.uk

BEM
Nevard Roland

SENIOR SALES EXECUTIVE

CUSTOMER SERVICE & SUPPORT/HELPDESK SOLUTIONS
THAMES VALLEY. BASIC £40-45K. OTE £85-90K PLUS BENEFITS

The Company Since 1984, Platinum Software Corporation has developed and sold financial accounting applications to mid-sized companies and divisions of large corporations. With over 40,000 customers worldwide, their client-server products have an excellent reputation across a variety of industries.

Earlier this year, as part of their strategic expansion plans, Platinum acquired Clientele Software, a significant player in the Customer Information Systems (CIS) market. Clientele's products focus on customer management software for mid-sized organisations, including sales force automation, help desk and enterprise resource planning.

The Role The UK division of Clientele is already well established and is looking to significantly increase product sales by hiring a Senior Sales Executive to generate further business through both direct and indirect channels. Reporting to Platinum's UK Director, the role is primarily selling to larger accounts but will also require managing

the small, office-based sales team. Ideal candidates are likely to come from a sales background in CIS/helpdesk solutions with a good understanding of the technical and business issues involved. This is an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated, successful person to be largely responsible for the growth of the UK business and offers great potential for career progression within Platinum.

Candidates interested in pursuing careers in sales, pre-sales or consultancy at Platinum in accounting, manufacturing or distribution application software are also invited to contact Hayward & Associates for more information.

To apply, please send your CV, quoting reference MR/1350 to Monica Reynolds at Hayward & Associates, Hanover House, Montpellier Walk, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 1SD. Tel 01242 236277 Fax 01242 236288. Email: Mreynolds1@aol.com

Internet address: <http://www.topjobs.net/hayward>

PLATINUM
SOFTWARE CORPORATION

clientele
by Platinum Software Corporation

Operation hackwatch

The Prince, that picture and privacy

EXECUTIVE
agement Co - EC4
and & PFP & sub. gym
is financial marketing services, products,
specialists and services through to
specialists internally. Maintenance &
to meet tight deadlines and type own
Email: info@ec4.co.uk

FAX. 0171 628 3353
HOUSE
AGE RD. SW1W 0PP

Why Auntie's bloomers are such bad news

Technical hitches undermine confidence in BBC news.

Michael Leapman reports

On Tuesday BBC News 24, the all-news cable station, carried live coverage of Robin Cook's moving speech at the start of the London conference on Nazi gold. About halfway through, a caption flashed across the Foreign Secretary's left breast: "Government advert".

Regular watchers of News 24 will know that this was not a sly attempt at sabotage by an in-house crypto-Tory, but just another familiar glitch in the technology. The caption had been accidentally brought forward from a later report on drink-driving, nothing to do with Mr Cook at all.

Similar mistakes happen every day. Tony Banks has been labelled "promotional video". At Prime Minister's Question Time last week, an innocent MP was identified as the BBC political correspondent Huw Edwards. And the Evening Standard reported that Jenny Bond, the court correspondent, was captioned "Scary Spice", although this sounds apocryphal.

The BBC's line is that these and related bloomers — such

as the inadvertent switching of the camera from the current story to something or someone quite irrelevant — are the result of "minor technical problems with some of the technology, nothing that we consider a major problem". Certainly it would be unfair to write off the whole enterprise just because of small irritations.

Yet the service has been in operation for a month. Babies are allowed to teethe for longer; but for a state-of-the-art television service it ought to be more than enough time to get the technology right.

It matters because repeated presentational lapses undermine the confidence of the production team. News 24 is still afflicted by the twitchiness that was apparent on day one. The presenters, win some as they are, seem permanently on edge, wondering where the next foul-up is coming from. This is one reason why News 24 lacks the energy and immediacy of the two other stations vying for the attention of news junkies subscribing to cable. Sky News and the America's CNN. (News 24 is also trans-



Technical hitch: a caption for Scary Spice is said to have appeared under BBC court correspondent Jenny Bond



mitted on BBC1 in the early hours after daytime scheduling has shut down.)

The prevailing lethargy is especially apparent at break-fast time, when most viewers want a quick, succinct summary of important stories and overnight developments. On Tuesday, switching on at 7.40am, I waited 20 minutes for a substantial news round-up. The intervening time was mainly taken up by overlong interviews and a leisurely

report/feature on the ethics of using cannabis for medical purposes. At that time of the morning we want the snappy urgency of Channel 5 News rather than an ersatz Newsnight.

The core problem, apart from the technical hitches, is that the BBC has yet to decide News 24's real purpose. When it was announced, the Director-General, John Birt, and the head of news, Tony Hall, its principal advocates,

said it was high time that viewers could get the news when they wanted it rather than when the BBC chose to schedule the bulletins.

That implies a rolling news service where you can find out what is going on whenever you tune in. It has not turned out like that. Although two or three main headlines are repeated every 15 minutes, the long interviews and analyses fatally slow the pace.

At the other end of the day, 7.30pm is when many commuters return home and may want a quick fix on the news. On News 24 they first have to sit through the daily half-hour interview slot. *Hard Talk*.

Tuesday's interviewee was the American playwright Edward Albee. It was a fascinating half-hour and Tim Sebastian, a former foreign correspondent, turns out to be a real find as an interviewer — but it did not

have the remotest connection with the news: a bad case of perverse scheduling. You would imagine that the BBC could at least score points over its rivals by the extent and depth of its foreign coverage; but even here its performance on Tuesday was desultory. The overseas stories were the Australian bush fires, the resignation of Pakistan's President and an apparent offer by President Yeltsin to reduce Russia's nuclear weaponry.

News 24's first reports on the fires were nowhere near as vivid or extensive as those on CNN or Sky, which carried a live report from the scene. The BBC did not catch up until later. On the Pakistan story, while CNN had a live voice report from Karachi, News 24's instinctive response was to wheel in a house expert to discuss the ramifications. CNN was also well ahead on Yeltsin.

I am sure it is not meant to be like this. The slogans News 24 uses to promote itself — "The Now o'clock News", "The whole picture, the whole time" — suggest a fast-moving, eye-on-the-ball service. The set is designed to reinforce that, with its busy splashes of colour and people beavering at computer screens. So is the casual dress of the presenters, at least the male ones, for whom jackets

appear to be banned. ("No grey men in grey suits," says the promotional clip for the business news.)

The jacket ban does not extend to waistcoats, a popular fashion item for the presenters Matthew Amroliwala and Krishnan Guru-Murthy, as well as the political reporter Tim Franks. Thus garbed, and with their predominantly glum demeanour, they give the impression of snooker players sitting out an opponent's century break.

But on the plus side, News 24 has a commendable amount of live coverage and a schedule flexible enough to accommodate it. On Tuesday, apart from Robin Cook at the Nazi gold conference, we saw Tessa Jowell speaking to a Commons committee, switched live to a F&A press conference about the World Cup and watched John Prescott make his Commons statement about local government finance. (Jowell and Prescott were live on Sky.)

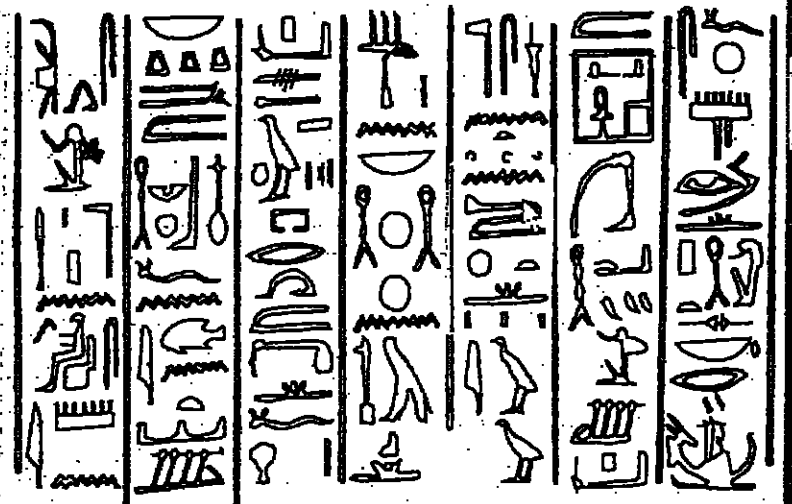
I am sure News 24 will eventually develop into a familiar and valued part of the BBC's output; but it needs work. No doubt there will be a relaunch and the bugs will be eliminated. But it would have been more sensible to wait a while and get it right from the start.

COMPASS

The British Museum

Festivals of the dead

I follow the majesty of this noble god Amun lord of the thrones of the two lands in his beautiful festival of the valley. I receive the offerings that come before him upon the altar of the lord of eternity. I inhale the incense of the laying of offerings when they [i.e. the procession of Amun] are in Hentetankh [the temple built for King Thutmose III on the West bank]. My limbs are pure when I receive the robe and see [the god] Ptah-Sokar.



chapters

A 3D tour of an Egyptian tomb, together with a translation of the accompanying graphics, will be revealed by the Compass project

The British Museum goes on the Internet

Early next year, users of the Internet wading through Websites dedicated to Dungeons and Dragons games will be able to look at Dragons of the World — oriental dragons, historic dragons, beautiful dragons from the British Museum.

The selection of representations of dragons in art and centuries-old documents relating to them will be the first sign — to the external computer user, at least — that the British Museum's ambitious new multimedia project Compass (Collections Multimedia Public Access System) is on the way.

As well as calling up a selection of colourful dragons on your computer screen, it will be possible to compare — and even merge — dragons from the East and the West.

As John Reeve, head of education at the British Museum points out, you would probably have to walk down half a mile of galleries to be able to make the same comparison.

As well as Dragons of the World, the British Museum is planning to publish an account of its own history on the Internet.

So far a prototype system with more than 350 digital objects and

Ray Snoddy sees the past come up to date

texts has been created and this is being evaluated to find the best technological approaches.

But when the Annenberg Centre opens at the British Museum in 2000, the museum hopes to have a minimum of 5,000 and possibly closer to 10,000 objects and documents in digital form through the Compass project.

They will include a three-dimensional "virtual" tour around an Egyptian tomb with translations of hieroglyphic inscriptions, gold and silver sword guards from Japan and sculptures from Benin.

When the project is complete, visitors to the museum, teachers as well as tourists, will be able to go to the Round Reading Room and consult one of the 50 terminals that will act as a basic navigational aide to the riches of the museum and which will also depict many of the fragile objects, such as documents, that cannot be displayed easily. But perhaps in the long term the

greatest significance of the project is that, through the Internet, the beauty of many of the most famous objects held by the British Museum will be brought, not only to classrooms in remote corners of the UK, but also to many millions of people around the world who may not otherwise be able to visit the museum.

The British Museum hopes the solutions that emerge from the Compass project, particularly in capturing images of three-dimensional objects, will become a national standard so that museums around the UK will have fully compatible systems.

Four specialist companies are working on the Compass project, which is just a small part of a major development scheme at the British Museum to mark its 250th anniversary in 2003. They are System Simulation, a software engineering company, Silicon Graphics, Diverse Interactive and ICL Interactive Heritage.

Some parts of the system are also likely to be published as CD-Roms, although the British Museum is looking for suitable partnerships for what will ultimately have to be a self-financing activity.

There's no business like ad business...

Something interesting has happened in the UK's top 15 agencies, Euro RSCG Wnek Gosper, has hired Michael White, the renowned film and theatre impresario, to "keep them at the cutting edge of the entertainment industry".

White, the man behind such productions as *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and movies including *Monty Python* and *The Holy Grail*, has apparently been brought in to provide updates on the "latest trends in worldwide entertainment".

However, the notion of advertising as entertainment is rather spurious. Advertising is, by definition, unashamedly commercial; it sets out to shift product, change consumer opinion and inform, with purely business rather than artistic constraints.

Mark Wnek, executive creative director of the agency, says: "People are increasingly unwilling to be sold to, so the way you sell has to be more subtle and impactful. One of the most effective ways to get advertising to work is to entertain, and the advertising and entertainment fields are coming closer together."

He has a point. Entertainment is a useful tool for warming the audience and a warm reception to your message. And Euro RSCG is probably best known for rather unentertaining ads for Peugeot, Cadbury's Milk Tray, Hovis and Procter & Gamble's Clearasil, so perhaps the agency thinks a little showbiz razzmatazz could well be what their output needs.

But Tony Cox, creative director of BNP DDB, the

Belinda Archer wonders if an impresario can really shift the product

agency behind such unarguably diverting campaigns as Rowan Atkinson's *Barclaycard*, believes that to view advertising in any high-falutin' way is "thoroughly wrongheaded".

"Being entertaining is very different from entertainment," he says. "It's wrong to think of ourselves as being in the entertainment business because we are there to sell things and return client investment with a profit." Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, an agency that raids film and theatre more than most — Pizza Hut and BT's celebrity-laden campaigns — also emphasises that any showbiz personalities it uses are tailored to the hard-nosed reality of selling. Alfredo Marcantonio, vice-chairman of Abbott Mead, insists: "The stars have to be appropriate to the selling message."

In any case, copious research shows that campaigns which people like — which could be said to be entertaining — are usually effective, but if the "entertainment" is irrelevant people find the advertising irritating.

"When entertainment is artificially superimposed on the message consumers positively resent it," says Winston Fletcher, chairman of Bozell UK.

Other industry players are quick to challenge how a theatre impresario might con-

tribute to the workings of an advertising agency. "He'll be good at getting tickets for Cats, but I'm not sure what else," quips one observer, while another remarks: "White is really a theatre man, and theatre is really rather too esoteric for most people. I can't imagine how he will be able to help advertising much from the lofty heights of luvviedom."

When asked why he was hired, even White says simply: "For my contacts book," though he adds a little more seriously: "There is no longer a gulf between the entertainment business and the world of advertising. There is a lot of intermingling of creativity."

There has, however, been two-way traffic for years, particularly between directors of commercials and movie-makers, from Ridley Scott, Alan Parker and Paul Weiland through to the new wave of young commercials' talents who directed *The Full Monty* and *Shooting Fish*.

As Fletcher says: "It's codswallop to suggest that there is any increasing trend or link between the worlds of advertising and entertainment. Think of the Leonard Rossiter/Joan Collins Cinzano ad from the Eighties, think of the PG Tips chimps."

Wnek insists that hiring White isn't about "hanging out with luvvies" but is "strictly business". "We are taking on board expertise and a person who has a window on another world," he says. But one feels that the appointment — the first of its kind — has more than a little to do with a star-struck attempt to tap into the shiny world of uncompromised artistic integrity that is showbiz.

A DUST-UP between the luvvie communities of acting and advertising is unlikely to elicit anything but mirth from neutral observers. But for those involved, the ten-week Equity dispute with adland is beginning to bite hard.

It began as a little local difficulty. Advertising trade bodies got together in an attempt to curb what they view as the "excessive" amounts actors are paid for doing voiceovers in UK ads.

Forming the Joint Equity Negotiating Group (JENG), they sought to cut anything up to two thirds off the amount in an attempt to save the industry an estimated £5 million a year. Not surprisingly, Equity took a dim view of this negotiating position and pulled a clever stroke, expanding its call for members' strike action to include all appearances in commercials.

Adland failed to see this coming. It had merely hoped to put an end to the largely apocryphal tales of unknown performers such as the legendary Edd Reiser, the king of voiceovers, earning six, even seven-figure sums a year.

JENG does not argue that the current fees threaten the production or profitability of commercials, simply that the fees are exorbitant. To the outsider, JENG has a point. Unknown voiceover artists can earn anything from £200 to £3,000 for their 30 seconds, but the true worth lies in repeat fees for multimillion-pound campaigns. Agencies wise to this now try to buy out repeat fees. In turn, alert agents decline.

However, the production of commercials is threatened. Until recently, the widening of the dispute had little effect, because commercials are made months in advance. Now, agencies trying to make ads for the spring are finding

it difficult to persuade actors to accept castings, even as extras. They are having to turn to untrained "real" people, animation or rerun old ads. JENG has tried to get round Equity's intransigence by taking an ad in the *Stage* claiming the new pay rates are fair, and approaching agents unilaterally. The agents replied that all agreements would be reached through Equity.

This week cracks appeared in JENG. The Advertising Film and Videotape Producers Association represents the production companies trying to film new ads. As such, it is the first body whose members feel the financial squeeze. Ads simply aren't getting made. This also applies to the large number of overseas agencies drawn to London by the excellent Soho production community. These are includ-



ed in Equity's ban. The worried AFVPA said unilaterally that it would pay the old rates, and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising has responded by trying to ban it from the negotiations. The AFVPA has vowed to fight on and is seeking to have the dispute heard by Acas.

Meanwhile, IPA member agencies are becoming increasingly angry with the body, believing it has mishandled the dispute. This week Equity played a trump card. It revealed that high-profile stars such as Helen Mirren, Ian McShane and Tim Pigott-Smith were declaring solidarity with less well-known colleagues and refusing to

perform in ads. In Mirren's case, this principle is costing her dear, despite having no problems with how much she is paid. She has declined to star

in next year's Virgin Atlantic campaign, although older ads will still run for a while. Some commentators have estimated that she might earn £30,000 for her role. This is a ludicrously low estimate. She will be turning down at least £100,000.

It is not easy to replace such celebrities and we are likely to have to endure many odd ads, even some glaringly amateurish ones.

Few will spill many tears for agencies, though. For too long advertising has been seen as a gravy train by all those involved. Agencies, production companies, actors, directors, make-up artists and hairdressers have all grown fat on

clients' budgets. Now agencies are having their margins squeezed, they are looking to pass on the cost. It is laudable to try to put an end to that gravy train. A cynical Equity believes the industry can afford the fees, and other celebrity actors make few bones about trying to get as much money as possible for ads to finance "serious projects".

But if we are talking about unknown actors, the total saving sought will be less than 0.5 per cent of the total cost of TV advertisements. To wage war on unknowns' voice-over fees and not, for example, the outrageous price of TV airtime is like scrapping Post-it notes but staying in £40-a-square-foot offices in Mayfair.

The IPA has been very heavy-footed in this affair. Agencies have complained of a lack of advice beyond "sit tight and hire scab actors". However well-intentioned, it has lost its members' confidence.

Meanwhile, the only winners will be overseas agencies and actors, and some as yet unknown ordinary person who may soon find himself or herself the star of a multi-million-pound ad campaign.

THE AD industry emerged surprisingly unscathed from the Hale and Pace "Jobs for the Boys" documentary about making an ad. Far from stereotyping admen as a bunch of overpaid and oily suits, the staff at Bates Dorland emerged as hard-working and dedicated. Hale and Pace found their tasks — such as making a Dixiel dimpled toilet tissue ad — difficult and stressful.

Their conclusion was that advertising was a really tough business. Just so. Their sympathetic creative director, Tim Ashton, was fired in between the programme being made and it going on air this week.



Solidarity: Helen Mirren has declined to star in Virgin Atlantic's new campaign

EXETER	105	205
HEREFORD	106	206
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168		
Calls cost 20p per minute or all taxes. inc., Lundy 151 608		

EXETER	105	205
HEREFORD	106	206
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168		
Calls cost 20p per minute or all taxes. inc., Lundy 151 608		

EXPRESS
RACELINE
0930 1684
SANDOWN
EXETER
HEREFORD
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
Calls cost 20p per minute + 6p inc. VAT, 1684 168

WORLD CUP 98

WHO PLAYS WHOM

WHERE AND WHEN



THE TEAMS AND THE VENUES

TEAMS

The 1998 World Cup will be the biggest yet with 32 teams competing in 64 matches. Europe provides 15 places (including France, the hosts), Africa five, South America five (including Brazil, the holders), Asia four and three from north and central America.

VENUES AND DATES

The first ball is kicked on June 10. For the first time teams will play all their group matches in different stadiums. There are ten in all, two in Paris and one in Bordeaux, Lens, Lyons, Marseilles, Montpellier, Nantes, St Etienne and Toulouse. The final will be at the Stade de France in Paris on July 12.

THE WORLD CUP FINAL

July 12, 9pm
St Denis (Paris)

July 7, 9pm
3RD PLACE PLAY-OFF

SEMI-FINALS

QUARTER-FINALS

July 3, 9pm
July 4, 4.30pm

FINAL SIXTEEN

June 27, 9pm
June 28, 9pm
June 29, 9pm
June 30, 9pm

GROUP A

SCOTLAND
MOROCCO
NORWAY

Have never missed a World Cup final. The tilters and favourites. Superb attack but less strong defence. Odds: 3-1.

Despite not winning their previous World Cup, an upbeat mood prevails. Top teams will provide the test. Odds: 80-1.

Should have plenty of support in France to cheer on a better team than the one that failed in USA 94. Odds: 200-1.

Whoever says that Norway are dull should recall May this year when they beat Brazil. A team to avoid. Odds: 25-1.

June 10: 5.30pm St Denis (Paris)
Brazil v Scotland
9pm Montpellier
Morocco v Norway

June 16: 9pm Nantes
Brazil v Morocco
5.30pm Bordeaux
Scotland v Norway

June 23: 9pm Marseilles
Brazil v Norway
9pm Saint-Etienne
Scotland v Morocco

June 29: 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

June 27, 9pm
Winner of group A
Runner-up of group B

June 28, 9pm
Winner of group D
Runner-up of group C

June 29, 9pm
Winner of group E
Runner-up of group F

June 30, 9pm
Winner of group H
Runner-up of group G

GROUP E

GERMANY
UNITED STATES
YUGOSLAVIA
IRAN

Mysterious team who should be unbeatable but may regret inconsistency. If all the players fire, watch out. Odds: 8-1.

Good individuals but unconvincing as a team. Odds: 80-1.

Unlikely to equal their semi-final place in 1998.

Easy group winners and a fast, impressive outfit from a dedicated country. Fine individuals will cause trouble. Odds: 200-1.

Did well in 1994 and unlikely to be knocked out. Many players remain and the team could prove a handful. Odds: 100-1.

June 13: 9pm Saint-Denis
Holland v Belgium
5.30pm Lyons
South Korea v Mexico

June 20: 9pm Marseilles
Holland v South Korea
2.30pm Bordeaux
Belgium v Mexico

June 27: 4pm Saint-Etienne
Holland v Mexico
4pm Parc des Princes
Belgium v South Korea

June 23: 9pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25, 4.30pm
Winner of group C
Runner-up of group D

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group F
Runner-up of group E

June 30, 4.30pm
Winner of group G
Runner-up of group H

June 27, 4.30pm
Winner of group B
Runner-up of group A

June 25,

WORLD CUP 98

Spain face test of nerve in hard draw

ROB HUGHES



Chief Sports Writer

IT IS an uncommon wind that blows nobody any ill. The mistral that had gusted through Marseilles relented for the World Cup draw and yet left its mark on the scattered seeds. Those who will be pleased must include Argentina and Italy, two giants of World Cup history who have the closest thing to what can be described as easy groups in which to play. Germany, the perennial of European representation, may not be ecstatic at facing a resurgent Yugoslav nation; but they should dispose of the United States and Iran.

Yes, America versus the country that, politically, nobody thought it was ready to play. But, politics aside for the moment, if the hosts France have also a comparatively gentle opening group, and Holland see nothing to fear... where lies the vaunted "Group of Death" that everyone wanted to sidestep?

It is, appropriately, group D — Spain, Nigeria, Paraguay and Bulgaria. For two to fall from that quarter is indeed a test of nerve and courage and Spain, which has built up a promising and resolute squad, must now face the music. Bulgaria are always underestimated, always wily and ready to damage somebody; Hristo Stoichkov, who keeps retiring and changing his mind, will probably lead his country with malice aforethought in terms of damaging Spain, the country where, occasionally, he plays for Barcelona. The Paraguayans, without an outstanding striker but cunningly organised by a Brazilian coach, will be nobody's fools.

And Nigeria? Once they find a coach, and if their interfering government gives them time and opportunity to prepare, who says that this African nation of almost 100 million people will not reveal the force, the pace, the extraordinary skills that won the 1996 Olympic title?

How thrilling it was to see Nwankwo Kanu, the young captain of that Olympic side, in the Stade Velodrome last night. The chill wind tugged at his neck, he looked cold but he wore the smile of a man who has come back after undergoing surgery for a heart complaint that doctors initially said would mean a sedentary life.

Those who look for the easy life have no place in what is coming at the biggest World Cup, the most gargantuan exposure of 64 games in France next June and July.

If Kanu is hoping to return then France, its opportunity opening like a rose, may have found, in a place not too far from the draw ceremony, the striker it needs to convert the midfield creation of Zinedine Zidane and company. He is just 20, not rated in Paris where he had trials with Paris St Germain, but given his opportunity at Monaco. The goals have flowed

from David Trezeguet in Europe this season and France will test him out in good time for the tournament.

With or without him, France should prevail against the determined, but physical, South Africans, a Denmark team that is not of the opportunist calibre of the 1992 European champions, and Saudi Arabia, who can be neat and technically proficient.

And if Scotland only have to take on Brazil in the opening game, if England register quiet satisfaction at the task of smothering the Colombian octopus, Faustino Asprilla, where in the world is there reason to enter a sporting contest with anything other than combative relish?

Be thankful that the English supporters, understandably fearful of being fenced in after the 96 deaths against the railings of Hillsborough eight years ago, have avoided, at least in round one, the two grounds (St Etienne and Nantes) which still have those cages. Be thankful too, that there is no political influence, as indubitably there is facing the American goalkeeper, Kasey Keller. He gulped when his country drew Germany for starters. "Just what you want," he observed ironically, "the perennial powerhouse of World Cup soccer. Still, it's in Paris, that should be nice."

Keller took a second deep breath when Iran became an opponent. "Interesting political line-up," he said laconically. There had been, leading up to the last World Cup in America, all manner of political threats to exclude Iran, had they qualified. However, after Iran became the 32nd and last finalist on Sunday, an American used the Internet to congratulate an Iranian acquaintance. "Nice to see Iran back in the World Cup," he typed, "after the tragedy of Khomeini's crazy anti-sport policies."

Back came the message online: "We are delighted the rest of the world cares. For the first time in 20 years, Iranians smiled. They rushed to the streets and danced. They forced Revolutionary Guards to dance with them — a taboo in the radical sector. The leader of the revolution has not published his congratulatory message but President Khatami and ex-president Rafsanjani were first to congratulate the players."

After more astonishing and revealing insights the e-mail concluded: "Wait and see Iranian lions in the France World Cup. They will show the world. They will change the perverted image. France, we are coming to change the pages of history."

Just one of the nations coming in a multitude of languages, of hope, of declarations that the World Cup is for everyone, and no match is a foregone conclusion.



Waving the flag: the World Cup draw ceremony gets under way in Marseilles yesterday

Overblown ceremony both tacky and unnecessary

Simon Barnes bemoans the fuss and hype surrounding what ought to be a simple exercise

IT WAS the morning of the flag-paper that was a day too far. The lead picture on *The Times* sports pages was a fat old man wearing a suit. He was holding up a flag-paper. On the flag-paper was the laconic, brutally enigmatic message: "Brazil".

World Cups are good, at least, if you are if you like football. And if you hold a World Cup, you obviously have to decide who plays whom, where they do so, and when. So some kind of draw is necessary. I am prepared to go that far down the road with the flag-paper carriers of this world.

But how long does it take to draw 32 names from a hat? Those of us who used to listen to FA Cup draws at Monday lunch-time, in the days when football did not drop its knickers every time a television camera was sighted on the horizon, know perfectly well that it takes about five minutes.

Within that modest time-span, a performance of dignity, and one not without mystery, can be organised. So how long has it taken FIFA and the French organisers to draw 32 names? About a week.

Big story of the first day: will England be seeded? Big story of the second day: England are not seeded. Disaster!

This really matters. It is really serious. And perhaps if so-and-so far to win their group on goal difference, that could mean that England have to play them as early as the round of 16. That's if they get that far! How perfectly frightful that would be!

We are deep into Emperor's-new-clothes territory here. Because it is

interesting to know who is going to play whom, but it doesn't matter. A tough draw is often an advantage. You win World Cups by getting on a roll, not by having an easy draw. Something happens to a team round about the third group game and the first knockout game. Suddenly they are rocket-fuel.

That is more likely to be the result of winning tough, and winning ugly, than of swallowing a Concafc minnow. England's intriguing draw could be disaster — too hard, too soft, or just right.

As for Scotland, they invariably play better against Brazil than against Costa Rica. It is not the draw that matters: but how you play football. More precisely, how a team grows in the course of the tournament.

But football, like all sport, is suffused with its own self-importance. When the World Cup starts, football will seriously believe that it is the most important thing on the planet. So now the draw is being held; and they try to tell us that is the most important thing on the planet.

Sport and its media coverage is increasingly full of Not Sport. Cheats, money, politics, attempts to buy governments, that sort of thing. There is no help for it as sport grows daily, almost hourly,

richer and more powerful. But for some bizarre reason, the world has been conned into an increasing love of Not Sport. The hottest ticket at the last Olympic Games was not the men's 100 metres final but the opening ceremony. Never mind something sublime and unique: I want something tacky and samey, please.

The World Cup draw has become the opening ceremony's opening ceremony: a tacky unnecessary prelude to a tacky unnecessary prelude. Not Sport has been taken a stage further. Pelé received his quadrilateral snub. And 38,000 people turned up to watch it all. Were they mad?

The final hour of the draw itself was perfectly conceived as the world's most univerting piece of television.

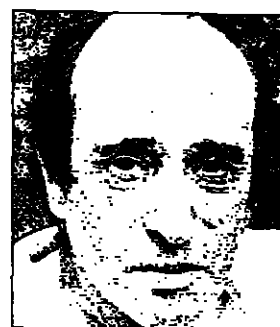
It was interminable. What is more, gratuitously interminable. Spinning out a mildly interesting five minutes into a full hour does not give you a mildly interesting hour. It makes you fed up with the whole thing before it starts.

There is truth and beauty to be found in sport: but it can only be found in action. And that is harder and harder to find in the floodwaters of Not Sport. Even television prefers action replay to action.

Sport mislays its pith and moment and loses the name of action. This week has brought us footballing megalomania *ad absurdum*. Moral: any footballing action that snubs Pelé is not worth an intelligent person's time. Certainly not a full week of it.

Global affair has become blown out of all proportion

BRIAN GLANVILLE



on the history of a grandiose tradition

THERE was, alas, no Robin Williams to puncture the pomposity of the World Cup draw in Marseilles last night. Four years ago, Fifa, in its star-struck folly, decided to hold the draw in Las Vegas, deluded perhaps by the city's claim to be "the entertainment capital of America".

Unlike New York, whose claims for such a title were surely stronger, Las Vegas had no tradition or connection with football. The occasion was marred from the start by the spiteful decision of Fifa's ineffable president, João Havelange, to exclude Pelé from the dias, because he had been suing Havelange's son-in-law, Ricardo Teixeira, the President of the Brazilian Football Federation. Pelé, in his habitual white suit, entered the hall just the same.

Various noisy singers performed, then Williams stepped up to help with the draw. "Wonderful to meet you," he greeted the bemused Fifa secretary, Sepp Blatter, "after feeling you all these years." He then put his hand in the drum and announced: "Ah pany-hose!" Next day, an American journalist wrote that Blatter's ideal future was quite clearly as a straight man.

These grandiose presentations do seem to have their elements of farce. When the ceremony took place in Rome, in 1989, the presiding showbusiness lady seemed to have little awareness of what she was doing. But then, over the years, the World Cup has become an increasingly grandiose, not to say over-populated, event.

How different things were when the tournament began in 1930, when Uruguay, winners of the previous two Olympic tournaments, were the hosts. It took three weeks to sail from Europe to Montevideo, and countries such as Italy, Hungary, Austria, Spain and Germany could not be bothered to enter. The British countries, who were not then members of Fifa, were ineligible. France, after initial vacillation, agreed to go since the whole idea of the competition had been theirs and, indeed, the trophy was named after their recently-elected Football Association president, Jules Rimet.

Romania also agreed, but to get the players released King Carol had personally to go round the big

oil companies where most of them were employed to intercede for them. Uruguay, who won the Cup, paid every team's expenses and still made a good profit.

When Italy put on the 1934 tournament, Uruguay sullenly refused to come and Argentina sent a weakened squad. In her inhumanity, she refused that the Italian clubs would steal more of their players on the dubious grounds of double nationality. In the event, no fewer than three Argentinians played in the Italy team that won the final.

In 1938, the Civil War ruled Spain out of the tournament in France and the Anschluss ruled out Austria, whose players were incorporated into a Greater German team. England were asked to make up the numbers, though still not a member of Fifa, but the Football Association refused.

It is astonishing to reflect that only 13 of the invited 16 teams competed in Brazil in 1950. Argentina, traditionally at odds with Brazilian football, refused to attend, as did Czechoslovakia. France withdrew in protest at the colossal distances they would have to travel. Austria said that their team was too young. In the event, Uruguay, the eventual winners, played only one game in their eliminating pool against Bolivia, which they won 8-0.

Fifa had decreed that the British international championship should act as one of the qualifying groups, the top two teams being admitted to the tournament. Scotland, in a sublime burst of hubris, announced that they would go only if they won the championship. They did not: England beat them 1-0 at Hampden Park in the decisive match. Billy Wright, the England captain, pleaded with George Young, his opposite number, to persuade the Scotland officials to change their minds, but they were obdurate.

The 1954 tournament in Switzerland had a full complement of teams and, bizarrely, West Germany beat Hungary 3-2 in the final, despite losing to them 8-3 in their first game.

The election of Havelange to the Fifa presidency in 1974 led to the bloating of the competition to 24 teams and next year, in France, to 32. And the World Cup draw has been bloated accordingly.



Ronaldo, who scored twice for the Rest of the World team in their 5-2 victory over Europe, evades a lunging tackle yesterday

Beckham approves of new ball

DAVID BECKHAM, the England midfielder, is looking forward to passing and shooting with the Tricolore ball to be used in France next summer. "It is faster and sharper," Beckham said, "and I think that in World Cup 98 it is going to be harder for goalkeepers to make saves with this ball."

Adidas aims to sell three million of the balls, which is decorated with the red, white and blue colours of the French flag and other national symbols such as the rooster, the France mascot, TGV, the French high-speed train. There are 32 panels on the ball — one for each of the competing teams — and its synthetic construction is claimed to give a more consistent trajectory, greater accuracy and speed of flight.

French polish for football's biggest feast

BY JOHN GOODBODY

FOR France, the World Cup party is ready to begin. With work completed on the new 80,000-seat stadium in Paris, the French are well ahead with their preparations for the sixteenth World Cup finals next summer. Unlike so many international sports events of recent years, there are no evident problems in the financing or building projects for the 32-country tournament, which will be the largest and most publicised in 68-year history of the competition.

Only the Olympic Games attracts more global interest than the World Cup because football is the national game of most countries. 169 nations entered the qualifying competition for next year's finals.

The World Cup owes a particular debt to France, which last staged the event in 1938, eight years after the first tournament in 1930 when only 13 countries entered. The tournament was created by a Frenchman, Jules Rimet, who gave his name to the first trophy, which

was won for the third time and thus outright by Brazil in 1970.

To delight television viewers across the world, there will be two opening ceremonies. The first will be in Paris on June 9. This will be a colourful parade, led by five giant models, representing the five continents, through the streets of the capital. The models will finally assemble in the Place de la Concorde, close to the River Seine, with its view up the Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe.

The next day, there will be another ceremony at the new Stade de France in St Denis in northern Paris, which will stage its first international on January 28 when France meet Spain in a friendly. The stadium is on the other side of the capital from the 49,700-capacity Parc des Princes, built in 1972, and is replacing it as the French national stadium. However, the Parc des Princes will still be used for matches during the World Cup.

The opening game at the Stade de France will feature Brazil, the holders, against Scotland. Unlike

ON MONDAY IN THE TIMES

A free 16-page guide to the World Cup finals, including how, where and when to watch matches in France and the prospects of the 32 contenders

earlier World Cups, the 32 competing nations will play all their three preliminary pool fixtures in different cities. The top two from the eight groups will go through to the last 16, when the straight knockout

stage gets under way. In previous tournaments, the teams have often been able to stay at one hotel close to those stadiums, which have staged all their early matches. However, this time many of the countries are planning to be based near Paris and move round the country, either by bus or plane. The organisers' chief problem will be the transport and housing of the supporters, particularly in the knockout rounds.

The nine cities which will hold matches are Paris, Marseilles, with its 60,000-seat velodrome stadium, Lyon, Nantes, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Lens, St Etienne and Toulouse. Lyon has the smallest capacity with seats for only 32,000 spectators.

The Stade de France, the most modern stadium in Europe, will host nine matches in the championship, including the final. It has been closely studied by architects hoping to get the contract for the design for the rebuilding of Wembley, which England hopes to use as the centrepiece of a World Cup in the 21st century.

The pressure on getting tickets will be enormous, because the tournament is taking place in Europe, where interest in football is so high and where more countries (15) play in the finals than from any other continent. However, the organisers are commendably not making exorbitant demands on the paying spectators. About one-fifth of the 2.5 million will cost less than £16 and one half will be less than £27.

TICKETS

ENGLAND supporters must join the Members Club set up by the Football Association (16, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3LW). SCOTLAND supporters must have already joined the Scottish Travel Club. The Scottish Football Association (6, Park Gardens, Glasgow G3 7YE) is expecting an allocation of 6,000 tickets for preliminary matches and it has more than 11,000 members of its Travel Club.

Ronaldo grabs the limelight

RONALDO gave the world an indication of what it can expect from Brazil next summer by scoring twice in the Rest of the World's 5-2 victory over Europe in the World Cup gala match in Marseilles yesterday. The world's most expensive footballer, valued at £20 million, was irrepressible as he set up the Rest of the World's other three goals.

Paul Ince, the England midfielder player, and Scotland's Gordon Durie, who came on in the second half, played for a Europe team that took the lead through Marius Lacatus, of Romania, in the second minute. Ronaldo created goals for Antony De Avila, of Colombia, and two for Gabriel Batistuta, of Argentina. Zinedine Zidane, of France, pulled a goal back on the hour.

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND SEEK TO END AUTUMN SERIES ON WINNING NOTE AT TWICKENHAM

Healey quick to profit from versatility

AUSTIN HEALEY has not always agreed with Bob Dwyer, his coach at Leicester, but the decision to switch him from scrum half to wing six weeks ago now appears to be a sound investment. Yesterday Healey was named on England's left wing against New Zealand at Twickenham tomorrow. It will be only the second occasion on which he has started a game for his country.

This, with one exception, is the England team that finished the first encounter with the All Blacks at Old Trafford a fortnight ago, though it shows six changes — one positional — from the XV beaten by South Africa last weekend. The exception is Paul Grayson, who replaces the injured Mike Catt at fly half. Grayson will be

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

partnered by Kyran Bracken, whose greater physical presence at scrum half gives him the slightest of edges over Matt Dawson. Grayson's Northampton team-mate, England will benefit from the returning experience of Martin Johnson and Phil de Glanville, while David Rees reverts to the right wing to allow for Healey's inclusion. Clive Woodward, the coach, was in no doubt about the issue central to Healey's selection: he brings more pace than either John Bentley or Adeyado Adebayo and, for one who has the reputation as a Jack the Lad, Healey has impressed with his attitude recently.

"He is a genuine footballer and he has been outstanding in training," Woodward said. "He deserves his place on

merit and I think he is starting to believe that what has happened in Leicester has been good for him. We have two outstanding guys at No 9 and Austin realises that."

Healey, one of the three British Isles scrum halves to tour South Africa during the summer, found himself restored to his old Waterloo and

SQUAD

M B Perry (Bath); D L Rees (Sale); W J H Greenwell (Leicester); P R de Glanville (Bath); A S Healey (Leicester); P J Grayson (Northampton); K P P Breckon (Bristol); J Leonard (Worcester); R Costantini (Leicester); D J Garforth (Leicester); M O Johnson (Newcastle); L B N Dooling (Worcester); N A Beck (Leicester); R A Hill (Gloucester); R G Simpson (Newcastle); M J S Dawson (Northampton); C M A Sheehy (Worcester); D J Gwynne (Bristol); K Yates (Bath); M P Regan (Bath)

sembled a giant endeavouring to swat an annoying fly.

Bentley and Adebayo, the two disappointed wings, will know precisely their future after the autumn series, since Woodward intends to draw up a pecking order for each position. "I want to let the players know where they stand," Woodward said. "We have seen the best players these southern-hemisphere sides have and, after this weekend, I can be brutally honest about which of our players have the best chance of staying in the squad, regardless of reputations."

"We know the criteria needed to beat these guys. We are not in the first division, but I think we can get there. The feedback from the players has been great. They all have a glint in their eye, they know

what it takes to win at this level. It's easier to put in a one-off performance; to put in four in a row has made it very clear what has to happen for England to succeed. If we had played weaker countries, I might have been overconfident about our real strength."

Overconfidence is not a New Zealand trait and the loss of Sean Fitzpatrick from most of this tour was followed yesterday by the withdrawal of Craig Dowd, his colleague who has a hamstring injury.

Fitzpatrick will make no decision about his playing future until April, but there are fears that the damage to his right knee and cumulative wear-and-tear will prove too much, even for this hugely competitive player to return to the international arena.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Chaloner keeps his cool to down Eyles

SQUASH: Mark Chaloner, of England, recorded the best victory of his career yesterday when he defeated the world champion, Rodney Eyles, of Australia, 15-10, 10-15, 15-9, 15-10 to reach the semi-finals of the Mahindra International Challenge at the Cricket Club of India, Bombay (Colin McQuillan writes).

Chaloner, ranked No 14 in the world, handled the extreme humidity better than the 30-year-old Australian, who wilted as the match progressed. Chaloner, 25, of Lincolnshire, said: "I am fitter than most other players and used to pushing myself beyond anything. The conditions here impose just on themselves."

He will meet Peter Nicol, of Scotland, the second-seeded champion, who defeated Simon Parke, the England No 1, in a fast, subtle and highly entertaining match, 17-15, 15-9, 15-11. Jansher Khan, the world No 1, appeared lethargic in defeating Derek Ryan, of Ireland, 15-8, 15-9, 15-8.

New partner for Offiah

RUGBY LEAGUE: London Broncos yesterday signed John Timu, 27, the former All Black full back and centre, from the Sydney-based Canterbury Bulldogs (Christopher Irvine writes). Timu was capped on 21 occasions between 1989 and 1994. The dual-code international will team up at the Stoop Memorial Ground next season with Martin Offiah, in what Tony Currie, the London coach, described as the "most potent centre-wing combination" in the world.

"John is a devastating runner and playmaker," Currie said. "His arrival provides us with an awesome combination with Martin that should have most teams worried."

Green light for White

SNOKER: Jimmy White, an ever-present at the Benson and Henson Masters since 1982, has been awarded the sponsor's wild card to compete in this season's event at Wembley Conference Centre in February.

White, who will meet Stephen Lee in the first round of the £35,000 tournament, was forced to rely upon an invitation after being relegated from the top 16 players in the world at the end of the 1996-97 campaign and failing to win the Benson and Hedges championship.

Clarke still the top man

CYCLING: Barrie Clarke, Team Raleigh's national cyclo-cross champion, remains the top rider in the latest British rankings list with a total of 579 points, a lead of 135 from Stuart Blunt. Steve Knight is third, a further five points behind.

Clarke leads Britain's team of Blunt, Carl Sturgeon, James Norfolk and Martin Seddon in tomorrow's third round of the World Cup competition near Milan and will miss the South of England championship at Southampton, one of five home regional title races, on Sunday.

No progress for Pierce

TENNIS: Anke Huber, right, from Germany, beat Mary Pierce 6-3, 6-2 in the masters of champions women's tournament in Frankfurt yesterday to end the French woman's prospects of progress to the semi-finals on Saturday. Pierce had been beaten by Martina Hingis, the world No 1 from Switzerland, in her first match. In the other group, Iva Majoli, of Croatia, beat Irina Spirlea, of Romania, 6-3, 7-5 yesterday.



Roy Kivell dies

BOWLS: Roy Kivell, the immediate past president of the World Indoor Bowls Council (WIBC), died in Exeter yesterday. Kivell, 77, had attended a meeting of the WIBC in London on Wednesday. A legend in the sport, he joined the Exonia club at ten, won his first titles before he was 21, and made his first appearance for England on grass in 1947, when he was 27. He made 66 outdoor appearances for his country, collecting 22 caps.

GOLF

Montgomery soon out of the running

THERE was little joy for a trio of Britons on the first day of the Million Dollar Challenge in Sun City, South Africa. Colin Montgomerie, the defending champion, all but disappeared from contention with a 78 yesterday as Phil Mickelson, from the United States, moved into a one-shot lead with a 67.

Nick Faldo shot a 73 and Ian Woosnam had a 74, along with the Americans Justin Leonard and Tom Lehman.

Davis Love III, who trailed Mickelson by a shot after a four-under-par 68, received a watch valued at \$100,000 (about £60,000) for an eagle on the par-five 9th. But it was the left-handed Mickelson who topped the leaderboard in this elite 12-man event after a round that included seven birdies — five of them on the back nine — and two bogeys.

"Having the lead is a positive in that it means I'm playing well," Mickelson said. "But I don't want to get overly excited about it."

Mickelson, 27, found that a combination of the swirling wind and the hot air at altitude made club selection difficult. Jesper Parnevik, of Sweden, had a round of 70 and Nick Price, of Zimbabwe, a 71.

Heritage at the heart of All Blacks' success

John Hopkins finds the New Zealand coach in talkative mood before the game with England

The Old Trafford scenes after the Martin Johnson incident, the bustle about the haka, the Paul Ackford criticism. That's all negative. We don't need that sort of thing to get us motivated. We have won 11 Tests against the best teams in the world this year. Our motivation comes from within. It is self-driven."

Thus spoke John Hart, the New Zealand coach, early yesterday morning. His enthusiasm lit up the darkness that had not yet lifted outside the window. Hart was bubbling over as he talked about the game against England at Twickenham tomorrow.

"It is Zinzan Brooke's hundredth game as an All Black. Olo Brown's fiftieth game for New Zealand. Sean Fitzpatrick, one of the great New Zealand captains, not being able to play — these are the things that motivate us. We owe it to the heritage of what we have done to play well. We owe it to the heritage of the jersey."

Hart, 52, may have scored a try in his first game of rugby and played for Auckland, his province, as a feisty scrum half, but it was when he turned to coaching that he began to make people sit up and take notice. Twice he was rejected for the All Blacks job before succeeding at his third attempt, on the day of his 50th birthday. Since then the All Blacks have played 22 Test matches and lost one.

Recently, Hart spent two hours with Alex Ferguson, the



The New Zealand players listen intently as Hart holds court during training at Bracknell Rugby Club yesterday

Manchester United manager, talking coaching, talking about staying ahead, talking management techniques. Indeed, talk is the abiding memory of Hart, his conversation resembling a rushing stream.

Yet Normal rugby words, such as prop, kick, gain-line and angles of running are not mentioned. Were it not for his rugby shirt and his logo of a New Zealand beer company, he could have been a management consultant, pausing for a pot of tea and a slice of toast on a way to sort out the problems.

So it was management tech-

niques, not a rugby manual, that enabled him to become the first New Zealander to coach an All Black team to victory in South Africa. He started coaching the All Blacks after working as head of human resources for New Zealand's biggest company.

When Hart puts on his glasses, his cheery, round face becomes slightly owlish. He looks like a management-suit type. At these moments there is nothing to suggest that he comes from the land where there are more sheep than people, where almost every former All Black coach has been a former All Black or a

farmer; and sometimes both. "My deficiencies as a player have helped me in my coaching," Hart said. "It's a strength, not a weakness, not to have been an All Black. My experiences in business were the most beneficial experiences to me as a rugby coach. A lot of the techniques I learnt there I translated into rugby."

In his mid-20s, Hart led the negotiating team to resolve an industrial dispute over redundancies that had closed the Mangere Bridge in Auckland for 25 years. "My job was to build a relationship with the unions and then the workforce," he said. "We had to

employ the people who had previously been on the job — hardened riggers, welders, men who had put a picket on the bridge for 30 months, who were fighting for their livelihood, and get them on our side."

"I did it by building relationships by trust, demonstrating we were genuine in our intentions. It was an example of what can be achieved by common sense, by man-management, by treating people as I wanted to be treated, by being thoughtful. A lot of the things I learnt from that time were important to me for coaching."

It was the same with Auckland. He arrived to coach New Zealand's most famous province when it had great names and talent but a sloppiness that offended his clear business mind. Initially, he faced scepticism. Andy Haden, for one, doubted Hart's ability.

Hart adopted the classic management technique. He got Haden on his side to such effect that Haden, once a foe, became his best lieutenant. Auckland, who before Hart had never won the national championships, won it the year Hart took over, twice more, and came second in the two remaining years.

"In the past, coaching was autocratic," Hart said. "My style is shared leadership. Why can the All Blacks do so well when the captain is missing? I try and grow leadership across the field, I encourage personal responsibility. My players are not told what to do, we create an environment and let them decide. I have a saying: 'We play as we train and we train as we play.' We have worked tremendously hard on up-skilling players."

"If I were coaching in the northern hemisphere, I would work a lot more on players' fitness, speed. I would watch the men under pressure. Northern hemisphere coaches are very regimented. I encourage my players and I accept their mistakes. Christian Cullen is 21, has played in 21 Tests and has scored 21 tries. In one game against South Africa, he made two mistakes and that led to two tries. I did not mind. He scored more tries than anyone else."

"There is wonderful enthusiasm for the game in England. Look at last weekend — 160,000 people attended two matches in London. But the game is too conservative, players are too reluctant to experiment."

Auckland announces plans for Blackheath

THE link-up between the world's best and world's oldest rugby union clubs became reality yesterday when John Baird and Graham Henry, the acting chief executive and coach of Auckland Blues, revealed their plans for Blackheath (a special correspondent writes). Announcing a £500,000 investment in the Allied Dunbar Premiership second division club, Baird and Henry said that Blackheath could become the Auckland Blues of England within five to seven years.

Henry said: "We are not looking to perform miracles and it will take a season or

two, but there will be changes in the way Blackheath play immediately. The current squad have players capable of first division rugby. It will only need one or two extras to add fat to the bones." Baird said that Auckland would be sending a few players over to England, but the development of local talent was the key to progress. "We want to fast-track Blackheath in the world of professional rugby. We will bring our system of development over here. It isn't about money, it is about doing things a better, smarter way, the Auckland way," he said.

Injured pride spurs Wainwright

By KEVIN FERRIE

HE HAS learnt the lessons of two seasons ago, when he was persuaded by a tabloid newspaper to dress as Robert Bruce on the eve of a Grand Slam decider. In the wake of that defeat by England at Murrayfield, Rob Wainwright was haunted by the image, used as a wrap-around cover but discarded around Edinburgh by disappointed Scotland supporters.

It was a rare misjudgment on Wainwright's part, but as a consequence there was never any likelihood of breast-beating declarations of devotion to the cause after his unexpected recall to the Scotland team to play the world champions, South Africa, tomorrow.

Instead, the qualified doctor, reinstated as captain, explained his recovery in cold medical terms. "I was initially told the head injury I suffered at the end of October would require a six week lay-off," he said. "However it felt all right last week and when I pushed it there was no problem."

There is little doubt, though, that he forced the issue because the injury-ridden Scots needed him. That position was underlined yesterday when Grant McKelvey, the hooker, withdrew. Stewart Campbell, the lock, remains doubtful with a calf problem. McKelvey is replaced by the

Glasgow and West of Scotland captain, Gordon Bulloch, who will make his debut. Jim Hay, of Hawick, comes in on the bench. A decision on Campbell will be made today. All this followed the withdrawal of Alan Tait and James Craig earlier this week and the fact that Scotland's other British Isles forwards, Tom Smith and Doddie Weir, were among those unavailable. Little wonder then that immediately after the humiliating defeat by Australia last month, Wainwright was visibly disturbed when told that Adam Hastings, his deputy in the No 6 jersey, had suffered concussion and would be sidelined for the mandatory three weeks.

As Scotland's chances receded, the captain has been stung by suggestions that there are those in the squad who regard this match as a good one to miss. Clearly, however, the selection of the other seven forwards who faced Australia is not so much a vote of confidence as a gamble that they will attempt to find reserves that they themselves did not know they.

South Africa, too, had to make a late change after a knee injury forced the fly half, Henry Honiball, to withdraw yesterday. He is replaced by Jannie De Beer.

the ultimate Christmas gift from

When you subscribe to any Sky channel package for 12 months, (from £11.99 to £29.99 per month) and pay a one-off £12 connection fee.



call today on 0990 979797 to see the best Christmas tv.

GRANADA lines open 8.30am - 10.00pm 7 days a week Offer available to new subscribers only.

Terms & Conditions: Subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the subscription contract. Pay per view events or programmes are not included within this subscription. Installation is quoted as standard, extra work will be charged for. This offer is not open to previous or existing subscribers or their household not to pubs, clubs or similar establishments. Available in Mainland UK only. Time for installation is subject to demand and availability. Subscribers must be 18 years or over, eligibility subject to status. Full details of subscription from Sky Subscribers Ltd, PO Box 43, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 7DD. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other Sky offer. Offer ends 31st January 1997.

Travel-weary champions intent on basking in Indian summer

The England cricketers touched down in Delhi on Wednesday in readiness for the opening ceremony of the sixth women's World Cup today. High spirits are matched by high hopes, but the defence of their crown, won so gloriously at Lord's four years ago, might depend as much on their diplomatic skills as their ability.

Karen Smithies, 28, wants to be the first captain to make a successful defence of the trophy, but her initial task may be to lead England in merriment. The latest itinerary expects England to travel nine hours by train from Hyderabad to Vijayawada, arrive at 6am and, three hours later, play a match against Pakistan.

First-class rail travel in India, as I remember from the Young England tour of 1981, at least ensures a seat and a blanket. In the other carriages, locals squeeze shoulder to shoulder. The alien landscape for the touring team, taking in temples, poverty and disease, will induce both a sense of wonder and dislocation.

Megan Lear, the England coach, played in the second World Cup, staged in India in 1979. "This itinerary is much more demanding," she said. "Twenty years ago we played five games in five weeks. We're not yet sure of these arrangements but, clearly, that overnight journey and match would not be acceptable to any international team. We hope to get it ironed out when the captains and coaches meet at the opening ceremony."

The well-documented organisational difficulties of the men's World Cup, staged in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1996, serve as a warning of what might lie ahead. Although there is considerable enthusiasm for this tournament, the huge commercial need to get things right for a vast television audience does not exist. The women will need patience and fortitude to resist the more outlandish travel demands.

At least this crop of players knows what to expect. Eleven of the 14 toured India in 1995. Smithies said that it was not a

SARAH POTTER



England must learn to adapt if they are to mount a successful defence of the women's World Cup

happy trip. "The cricket was OK but the rest was awful," she said. "India tests everyone and things spiralled out of control. What's important is that we all learnt from that."

Certainly the squad is united and professional. Vodafone's sponsorship, secured in time for the victorious series against South Africa last summer, has meant that at least the players have not had to pay for the privilege of pulling on an England sweater.

Lottery grants have helped preparations off the pitch and coaches such as Dermot Reeve, Mike Gatting and Geoff Arnold have lifted standards on it. Smithies thinks that it might make the difference. "These guys want us to do well and that gives us a boost," she said. "Dermot Reeve has been great for me because, tactically, he knows all the little intricacies that I wouldn't have thought of. He gets us to try things, the reverse sweep, the paddle, anything to put the ball where there's a gap. It doesn't matter whether it looks elegant, it's



Smithies, left, and her England team get in some last-minute practice before departing

about getting runs on the board." Although England have Australia in their group, they should make enough runs against South Africa, Ireland, Denmark and Pakistan to qualify for the semi-final, on Christmas Eve. New Zealand are joint favourites with England, but India, in front of 40,000 partisan supporters and playing on sun-baked wickets that suit their gifted

spin bowlers, will also be a threat. Smithies does not care who steps forward to challenge as long as England are in the final, in Calcutta on December 29. She is not ready to be called a Spice Girl — she hates curry and knows that Christmas without her husband, Dean, will be difficult — but she is single-minded. "It's a big wrench, but this is the World Cup and we are defending

champions," she said. "That outweighs everything." Lear believes that England have the potential to triumph if the players can adapt. "It will be tough to be away at this time of year," she said. "Christmas isn't celebrated there so they look a bit bemused when you're sitting in your paper hats. We've all bought each other little presents and if we're in the final that will be enough."

Redheads rule the roost

Red Hair Day BBC1, from 9.00am

For no reason, though it is a silly idea, the BBC has decided that it is time to celebrate red hair. Accordingly most of the regular daytime programmes feature redheads in their line-ups, starting with two brother-and-sister teams in *Cartoon Cook*. The theme continues in *Style Challenge*, presented by the suburban Shaunna Lowry and featuring a redhead who wants to make more of it and a "mousy" who would like to turn her hair scarlet. Jane Asher displays her russet locks on *Good Living*, while the *Call My Bluff* guests are Steve Davis, Rula Lenska, Dr Phil Hammond and Isla Blair. Even the weather gets the treatment, courtesy of the flame-haired forecaster Isobel Lang. There is one notable absentee, though after his recent falling-out with the Beeb the non-appearance on *Red Hair Day* of copper-nob Chris Evans is unsurprising.

War Walks BBC2, 8.00pm

Richard Holmes may be a military historian but not for the first time in this series he is excellent on the political background against which his featured battle was fought. The conflict on the River Boyne in 1690 between the forces of the Protestant William III and the Catholic James II has become a seminal event in the story of Irish Protestantism as the July marching season continues to demonstrate. After Holmes's informative film there can be no excuse for not understanding why. But for Unionists claiming King Billy as their hero, Holmes ungraciously points out that King Billy was a pockmarked asthmatic with no real interest in Ireland. Furthermore, if Jacobite musketeer had been a shade more accurate at the start of the battle the course of Irish history could have been very different.

Blind Men ITV, 8.30pm

The third episode of Chris England's sitcom confirms the evidence of the first, that this is an amiable, unchallenging show which breaks no comedy moulds but slips down easily thanks to its lively pace and deft plotting. To have a plot at all



Redheads have more fun (BBC1 from 9am)

has become unfashionable in comedy writing so all credit to England for going back to basic principles. Tonight's scenario involves our leading salesman (played by Jesse Birdsall and Jeremy Swift) in a bet about the quickest route to a car between the showroom and the factory. From this premise England builds fruitfully. Wanting a good Sunday morning on a silly car race infuses the men's partners and the contest itself becomes beset by obstacles such as road works and a traffic cop on the lookout for speeding vehicles.

The Wogan Years BBC1, 10.20pm (not Scotland)

Bette Davis's appearance on the Terry Wogan show was doubly notable. In the first place she refused to be bashful about her age and got a thunderous round of applause for revealing that she was 79. She also made no pretence about the reason for coming on the programme, which was to plug her latest book. Wogan affected mild outrage at such naked salesmanship but why should he? Probably 85 per cent of his guests were there to plug something and few did so with Davis's candour. These latest pickings from 74 years of Wogan also include what is claimed to be the longest and loudest ovation accorded to a single guest. And who could this superstar be? Sorry, but you will have to tune in and find out, though it does mean having to sit through Zsa Zsa Gabor and some cute child stars. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Radio 3, 7.30pm

The coming festive season will not of course remain as uplifting and tree-free as this performance by the BBC Singers from Ely Cathedral, a statement I make with confidence even though it is no more than a prediction given that this is a live concert. The Singers are one of the more compelling reasons to think that the licence fee is one of life's better bargains. Their concert, with the Britten Sinfonia, is a portrait of St Nicholas, whose feast day is celebrated tomorrow. The evening includes Benjamin Britten's *St Nicholas Cantata* and Haydn's *Mass in G Minor*, which the composer dedicated to St Nicholas, who is also the subject of the interval talk, given by Gill Pyrah, at 8.10.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greaney and Zoi Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong Essential Selector 8.00 John Peel 11.00 Westwood Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am One in the Jungle 4.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Sunday Morning 1.00pm Paul Jones 3.00pm Steve Wright 5.00pm John Peel 7.00pm Greg 7.30pm Friday Night Music Night. Foderick Dunk conducts the BBC Orchestra, led by Martin Lovelady 9.15pm Ken 9.30pm Listen to the Band 10.00pm The Arts Programme 12.00am Charles Nove 4.00am Lata Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nick Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm News on Five 4.00pm Nationwide with Julian Worricker 7.00pm News Extra with Anne Webster 7.30pm Alan Goss's Sportsbeat 8.30pm Friday Sport. Presented by David Coles 10.00pm Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner 11.00pm News Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Dalry

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00am Lynn Parsons 10.00 (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Graham Dunn 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Horse 4.00pm Russ 'N' Jono 7.00pm (FM) Paul Coyne (AM) Cathryn Jones 10.00pm Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill Overton and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Moe Dee's Sportszone 10.00pm Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickinson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Mozart (Euphonia, Jubilate); Debussy (Danse Sacree of Danse Profane); Gershwin (Overture to Rhapsody in Blue); Shostakovich (The Heavies, Fingal's Cave); Stravinsky (Suite Petruska). 9.00am Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Wagner (Overture to Twilight Night); Brahms (Piano Quintet in E flat); Schubert (An den Mond); Borodin (Overture to Prince Igor). 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines. Chopin (Polonaise in B flat minor, Op posth); Mozart (Ach, ich Fühl's, Die Zauberflöte); Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker); Busoni (Piano Concerto). 12.00pm Composer of the Week: The Celtic Revival. 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Foderick Williams, baritone; David Willmott, piano. Includes Poulenc (Les Treilles du Peintre); Ireland (During Music); Lord Berners (Three Songs in the German Manner); Red Rose and Red Nose; Britten (A Poison Tree); Wolf (Gesellschaftslied); Goethe-Lieder; Doss Doch Genialität; Last (An Rhein; Wolf (But don't call it Schubert (In der Schwärzengasse); Wolf (Der Feuerleiter, Morike Lied). 2.00pm The BBC Archive. A selection of Schubert recordings of chamber music, with string quartets recorded by the Melos Quartet. 4.00pm Music Revisited. The Fitzwilliam Quartet performs Haydn (String Quartet in D).

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00am News Briefing 6.10am Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30am Today 8.40am Yesterday in Parliament 8.00am Weather 9.00am News 9.05am Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is Lloyd Grossman (I). 9.45am Feedback, with Chris Dunley. 10.00am (LW) An Act of Worship. 10.00am (FM) News. Let's Dance! An exploration of party-going since the Edwardian era (I/4). 10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler. 10.30pm Woman's Hour. An edition from Wales introduced by Gill Foley. 11.30pm The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock. You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whitaker. 12.25pm The Food Programme. Derek Cooper. Richard Dyer traces the history and influence of catering industries. 12.55pm Weather. 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke. 1.40pm The Archers (I). 1.55pm Shipping Forecast. 2.00pm News. Classic Series. War and Peace. Leo Tolstoy's epic, dramatised by Mary Kahan and Mike Walker. With Leo McKern (2/10) (I). 3.00pm The Afternoon Shift, with Lucie Taylor. 4.00pm News 4.05pm Kelticore. Tim Moxley reports from Amsterdam on the changing face of the city's art museums. Plus an interview with the Turner Prize winner and the Irish band Dervish who are in the studio. 4.45pm Short Story. The Emancipation, by Daphne Glazer, read by Patricia Hodge (I).

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey. Includes the Morning March 8.00am Henry Kelly. Includes BBC Radio 4 Classic Record of the Week. Plus the Classic Masterpiece and Kelly's Club Sandwich. 1.00pm Listener Request Hour. 2.00pm Chalkdust. Includes Concerto in D. 3.00pm James Cuck 4.30pm Newsnight. 7.00pm Smooth Classics with John Burnette. 8.00pm Evening Concert. Britten (Tragic Overture); Handel (Water Music Suite No 1 in F); Mozart (Ave Verum Corpus); Wagner (Siegfried Idyll); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A). 10.00pm Michael Tippin 2.00am Concerto (I) 4.00pm Sally Peterson

CLASSIC FM

4.45pm Music Machine, with Verity Sharp. 5.00pm In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. 7.30pm Performance on Three (Sounding the Century). BBC Singers, Ely Cathedral, under Nicholas Cleobury. See Choice. Live from Ely Cathedral. Includes Britten (Young Apollo), with Helen Crayford, piano; Haydn (St Nicholas Mass), with Alison Smart, soprano; Lynette Alcorn (I/4). 8.00pm Robert Johnson's Blues. Includes: Robert Johnson (The Sunflower); Robert Johnson (The Sunflower); Robert Johnson (The Sunflower); Robert Johnson (The Sunflower). 9.30pm Newsnight. Includes: Stephen Prall introduces a live celebration — for Ian MacKaye at 75 and Lou Harrison at 85. The BBC Philharmonic under Charles Simonetti, with the London Sinfonietta. Includes: Charles Simonetti (I/4). 10.00pm Composer of the Week: Massenet (I). 12.30am Documenting the Blues. The last of the series with Paul Oliver (I). 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod.

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00am News Briefing 6.10am Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30am Today 8.40am Yesterday in Parliament 8.00am Weather 9.00am News 9.05am Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is Lloyd Grossman (I). 9.45am Feedback, with Chris Dunley. 10.00am (LW) An Act of Worship. 10.00am (FM) News. Let's Dance! An exploration of party-going since the Edwardian era (I/4). 10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler. 10.30pm Woman's Hour. An edition from Wales introduced by Gill Foley. 11.30pm The Natural History Programme. Presented by Joanna Pinnock. You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whitaker. 12.25pm The Food Programme. Derek Cooper. Richard Dyer traces the history and influence of catering industries. 12.55pm Weather. 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke. 1.40pm The Archers (I). 1.55pm Shipping Forecast. 2.00pm News. Classic Series. War and Peace. Leo Tolstoy's epic, dramatised by Mary Kahan and Mike Walker. With Leo McKern (2/10) (I). 3.00pm The Afternoon Shift, with Lucie Taylor. 4.00pm News 4.05pm Kelticore. Tim Moxley reports from Amsterdam on the changing face of the city's art museums. Plus an interview with the Turner Prize winner and the Irish band Dervish who are in the studio. 4.45pm Short Story. The Emancipation, by Daphne Glazer, read by Patricia Hodge (I).

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1: FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 93.2-92.4. RADIO 4: FM 94.6-96.0. LW 198. FM 720. RADIO 5: FM 958.5-959.5. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648. LW 190 (12.45-1.55pm). CLASSIC FM: FM 100.1-100.9. VIRGIN RADIO: FM 105.8-107.7. TALK RADIO: MW 1053. 1058. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamee.

ATHLETICS: McKiernan, McColgan and Suzuki head strong line-up for prestigious London event

Women set sights on a marathon effort

By JOHN GOODBODY

A NEW women's world record is a distinct possibility at the 1998 Flora London Marathon with the announcement yesterday that several outstanding internationalists will be running. Catherine McKiernan, of Ireland, who made the fastest debut at a marathon with 2hr 23min 44sec last September, will take part, along with Hiromi Suzuki, the 1997 world champion from Japan, and Liz McColgan, Britain's most successful female dis-

tance runner. The world record is 2hr 21min 06sec, set on the London course by Ingrid Kristiansen, of Norway, in 1985, and McKiernan would earn about £128,000 if she bettered that time.

However, McKiernan, 28, said yesterday: "The money does not make you run any faster. At some stage I believe I could beat that time, but I do not know whether it will be in London. There are still four months to go and it depends how well prepared I am."

McKiernan said that the Berlin

marathon last September was "easier than I expected and I think I could run a lot faster". Jo Doonan, her coach, said yesterday the world mark could be under threat if there were "three or four people in the field capable of doing it, all believing that they can win. One doubts if it is possible to set a world record, by just having a pace-maker for some of the race."

Unlike some marathons, the London Marathon no longer mixes its elite men and women's fields, as it did when Kristiansen took part. The

leading women can no longer be paced by men as they are in many other international city events.

The elite women now start 30 minutes before the men in the London Marathon after organisers decided to make more of a feature of the women's event. The marathon is still growing in popularity with the public. A record 100,000 have applied to run in the event, to be held on April 26, but 55,000 of them will be told this month that their applications were unsuccessful.

TENNIS

Rusedski blames injury for surprise withdrawal

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE late withdrawal of a leading name from a tournament is nothing new to tennis, but Greg Rusedski's absence from the Albert Hall doubles championship yesterday left something of a sour taste. Rusedski pulled out of the exhibition event in London even though he had been practising hard in the morning — and has scheduled a further session today.

Rusedski felt that the injury to his lower back, which he sustained in Hanover, could not be risked in a light-hearted doubles match. The wonder is that he completed a two-hour practice session on Wednesday and 90 minutes yesterday morning, when he looked untroubled. The detail was greeted with no little astonishment by the tournament organisers, who were initially alerted to Rusedski's back problem three days ago.

More than 20,000 tickets have been sold for an event that marks the return of tennis to the Albert Hall after a decade's absence. Rusedski and Tim Henman were recruited to add substance to the Seniors Tour of Champions, which includes John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg. Although they are the main attractions, Rusedski's expected presence is bound to have helped ticket sales. In his absence, Henman, neatly capturing the spirit of the occasion, teamed up with his coach, David Felgate, to beat Peter McNamara and John Lloyd.

Peter Worth, the tournament chairman, said of Rusedski's withdrawal: "We

are very disappointed to learn that he is injured. We have heard that he has been practising hard. We do find it peculiar that the morning after pulling out, he has apparently been hitting the ball hard and that he was serving well on Wednesday."

Tony Pickard, Rusedski's coach, maintained that the player's back is prone to locking up — and not necessarily while hitting the ball. "He has been in a mess for two days," Pickard said. "You can't confidently go into a match, no matter how light-hearted, in this situation. It is better not to play at all than to pull out after 20 minutes. He needs to get into shape for the start of next year. It is not a con."

A spate of injuries has plagued the concluding weeks of the season. Although this tournament is anything but significant, Rusedski's withdrawal underlined once again just how much fans are being

short-changed. If injuries in all sports are inevitable, withdrawals or unfinished matches have become an all-too-common occurrence in tennis.

The issue of mistreating the game's fan-base was amplified by Henri Leconte, who opened the seniors tournament with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Johan Kriek. Leconte, still one of the more charismatic performers, said of present-day players: "They need to understand that if they don't work together to pay more attention to the crowd and the kids, the game will go down quickly in the next five or six years."

Borg and McEnroe play today and both testify that the chemistry triggered by the sight of the other across the net remains strong. It should certainly be an occasion to remember. McEnroe, complete with his tantrums of old, warmed up by beating Guillermo Vilas 6-3, 6-3.



Rusedski had been practising hard for the doubles event

Now there's an easier way to give your child a world of knowledge



All this knowledge and so much more is packed into the new Eyewitness Children's Encyclopedia on PC CD-ROM. Designed specially for ages 7-11, the encyclopedia supports the School Curriculum and has been created specifically for the U.K. Bursting with interactive adventures, it will pave the way to success at school. Learning need never be a burden again.



EDUCATION MEETS IMAGINATION

هكذا من الأهل



CRICKET 48

Hollioake at the helm as winter plans take shape

SPORT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5 1997

RUGBY UNION 52

Healey on the wing as England ring changes for Twickenham



Romania, Colombia and Tunisia provide initial World Cup rivalry for Hoddle's team

England able to draw comfort

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN MARSEILLES



Rob Hughes... 51
Ceremony too far... 51
Complete guide to draw... 51
Harford move opposed... 53

OUT of the darkness that shrouded the Stade Vélodrome, England were lit up by a dazzling shaft of light here last night. There may be no easy touches in the World Cup finals that will take place in France next summer, but when the draw was made for the tournament and England were allotted the third position in group G, a mixture of relief and elation spread over the face of Glenn Hoddle.

Just when it seemed that fate was going to deal England the cruellest of hands and place them in group F with Germany and the United States, old foes who have caused England heartbreak before, Hoddle's team were drawn instead in the group containing Romania — possibly the weakest of the eight seeds — Colombia and Tunisia. All have their merits, but England could have fared much, much worse.

Having avoided all the leading powers, teams such as Brazil, Germany, Spain and Argentina, Hoddle and his squad, buoyed by only two defeats in his 14 games in charge, can now tackle their preparations for France with renewed gusto, boosted by the optimism that will surge through them after the news of their opponents. If the England coach had feared a "group of death", this was news that breathed even more life into the nation's gathering challenge.

It means that England will open their attempt to try to win the sport's biggest prize for the first time in 32 years here in this Mediterranean port city on June 15. Probably

still operating from their projected base in La Baule, near Nantes, they will then move on to Toulouse a week later to play Romania before winding up their group games against Colombia in Lens, in the northeast of France, on June 26.

Romania, of course, will be the biggest threat and it is imperative that England win the group, because failure to do so is likely to pit them against Argentina in the last 16, a tie that they would prefer to avoid at that relatively advanced stage of the competition. To win the group would mean a marginally easier next tie, possibly against Croatia.

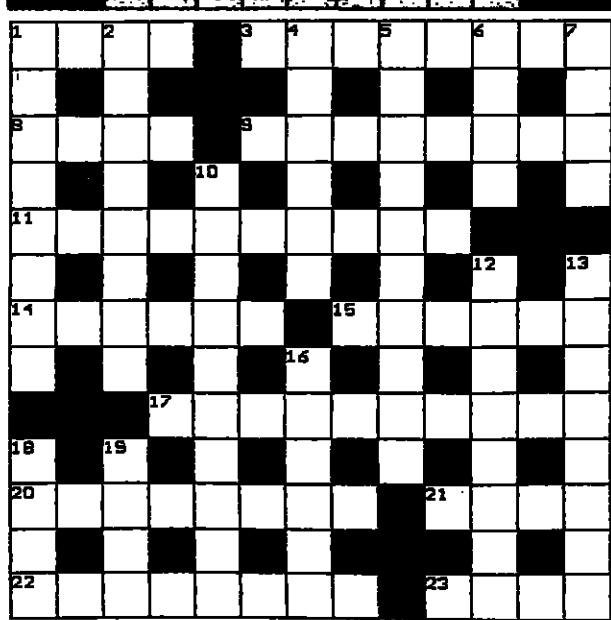
PAST RECORD

v Romania... P9 W2 D6 L1 F7 A5
OVERALL... P5 W1 D3 L1 F3 A3
v Colombia... P3 W2 D1 L0 F5 A1
OVERALL... P1 W0 D1 L0 F1 A1
No previous World Cup meetings
World Cup record includes qualifying ties

HOW THE TEAMS LINE UP

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Brazil Scotland Morocco Norway	Italy Chile Cameroon Austria	France South Africa Saudi Arabia Denmark	Spain Nigeria Paraguay Bulgaria
GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
Holland Belgium South Korea Mexico	Germany United States Columbia Yugoslavia Iran	Romania England Tunisia	Argentina Japan Jamaica Croatia

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1269

ACROSS

- 1 Vein of ore (4)
- 3 Sample (8)
- 8 Part of speech of speech (4)
- 9 Complaints, complaints (8)
- 11 Quibble (5,5)
- 14 Artist's whole production (6)
- 15 King's seat (6)
- 17 At once, if at all (3,2,5)
- 20 Breakdown for study (8)
- 21 Short hair, bird's pouch (4)
- 22 Game for one; one on movement (7, Night) (8)
- 23 Piquancy; lemon peel (4)

DOWN

- 1 Venture at poor odds (4,4)
- 2 Share rooms; have a big laugh (6,2)
- 4 Female-seclusion custom (6)
- 5 Understand; include (10)
- 6 Gangster's girl; — Flanders (6)
- 7 Bird's home (4)
- 10 Stock character (10)
- 12 Gradually come together (8)
- 13 Old, broken down (8)
- 16 Eccentric belt (6)
- 18 (Eg wood) deform (4)
- 19 Run fast arrow (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1268

ACROSS: 1 Impala 5 Pounce 8 True 9 Crackers
10 Forced 12 Twin 15 Downing Street 16 Bolt 17 Absurd
19 Gambling 21 Flex 22 Impede 23 Treaty
DOWN: 2 Marco Polo 3 Ace 4 Accident 5 Peak 6 Make
terms 7 Cur 11 Constable 13 In earnest 14 Escargot
18 Mime 20 Arm 21 Pec

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS — SPECIAL OFFER:
The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.
Compilation volumes of The Times Two Crosswords (Book 6 — £2.99, The Times Crosswords (Volumes 10, 11, 12, 13 — £3.99 each) and Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.
To order simply call 011 344 426 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/PO please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 946, Farnborough, TR14 7XJ. Delivery is 10-14 days and subject to availability.

Romania, though, will constitute formidable opposition. They galloped through their qualifying group, winning nine of their ten matches and succumbing to a draw only once, against Ireland at Lansdowne Road in October. They reached the quarter-finals of the last World Cup in the United States, and with players such as Marius Lacatus and Dan Petrescu in their team, it will be a notable achievement if England can overcome them.

Colombia, too, will lack nothing for passion and commitment. Led by the unpredictable Newcastle United striker, Faustino Asprilla, there is likely to be more pressure on them than any other team given the tragically violent reaction to their elimination from the competition in the US when their defender, Andres Escobar, who had scored an own goal in the match against America, was gunned down when he returned to his home city of Medellin.

England's pairing with the South Americans, who last played against them in a draw at Wembley in the run-up to the 1996 European championship, means that the match between the teams that had been planned for London in February will almost certainly now be off. Argentina, who were alternative opponents, are also likely to be ruled out because of the possibility of that last 16 meeting. A possible replacement being mentioned last night was Yugoslavia.

As for Tunisia, they qualified over Egypt for the finals and are highly rated by the former England coach, Terry Venables. They lost to South Africa in the final of the African Nations Cup last year and under their Polish coach, Henryk Kasprczak, football in the North African country has been revitalised.

The last time that England faced them they won a tempestuous match 2-1. Steve Bull scored one of the goals, but the match is best remembered for the headbutt that Terry Butcher aimed at an opponent and the relief that it went undetected, thereby doing nothing to hamper England's last-minute preparations for the 1990 World Cup, when they eventually reached the semi-finals under Bobby Robson.



Sepp Blatter, the FIFA general secretary, gets the draw for the 1998 World Cup finals under way last night

The draw was held in the early evening here, an hour after dusk had fallen and obscured the blocks of modern flats and the rocky mountains rising away behind the stands. On a stage behind one of the goals that was decorated with props including a globe, a set of goalposts, a football and, almost as an afterthought, the World Cup trophy, Sepp Blatter, the FIFA president, had stepped into the spotlight like the compere of a game show.

The draw for the tournament, which affected more than 1.3 billion people from the 32 nations who have qualified for the extravaganza which will begin with Scotland's tie against Brazil in the Stade de France on June 10, looked like a cross between the

National Lottery Live and Family Fortunes, but it passed quickly and without a hitch. With the seeds drawn first and the Concaaf and African countries coming next, the tension for England supporters built and built until it was almost unbearable. In the end, though, they could have no complaints.

It will still be tough and

with expectations growing with every game, to the extent that failure to make the semi-finals will now be regarded as a dreadful anticlimax, the group stage is still only the first stage of the second half of Hoddle's attempt to bring the World Cup back to England and create a new generation of heroes to follow the Boys of '66.

Scotland are hoping to make it fourth time lucky against Brazil

By KEVIN MCCARRA

FEELINGS of exhilaration and foreboding prospered jointly but, above all, there was a sense that destiny had been at work in the draw yesterday. Although Scotland are to have the honour of opening the World Cup, on June 10 in the new Stade de France in Paris, they may end that day in a tattered condition. The match will be against the holders, Brazil.

When Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, began to unscrew the ball from pot two that contained the name of the country to be placed with Brazil in group A, there were nine candidates. Any Scottish football supporter, however, knew that, in reality, there was only one nation that could possibly be announced. It was a matter of fate.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, had spent recent days stating that he did not want to face Brazil. So far as superstitious observers are concerned, that was tantamount to inviting such an outcome. In any case, the two countries are in the habit of encountering one another at the World Cup, with three previous meetings since 1974.

These are always festive occasions of uproarious good-

will for the supporters, but the merriment has been easier for the Brazilians to sustain. Scotland have won none of these fixtures, drawing 0-0 in 1974, losing 4-1 in 1982 and 1-0 in 1990.

"We are very happy," a dogged Brown said, "but it couldn't have been any harder. We have the chance to redeem ourselves against Brazil." The fascination at the prospect of another attempt at victory over such opponents tended to reduce interest in the rest of the draw. The other two opponents in the group, however, will also concern Brown.

Norway and Morocco may offer a contrast in styles, but both are liable to prove formidable. Indeed, the only defeat suffered by Brazil in their 44 matches since the 1994 World Cup Final was 4-2 against Norway, in Oslo. It is the measure of Norway's advance that such a result no longer provokes incredulity.

The coach, Egil Olsen, frequently finds himself accused of constructing a side that is prone to flinty, unattractive football, yet its players are in great demand. When the Scottish Football Association ponders the draw, the gloom may be relieved when they note some likely savings in

PAST RECORD

v Brazil... P8 W0 D2 L6 F2 A12
OVERALL... P3 W0 D1 L2 F1 A5
v Morocco...
No previous meetings
v Norway... P11 W7 D3 L1 F30 A14
OVERALL... P2 W1 D1 L0 F3 A2
World Cup record includes qualifying ties

expenses. Brown will not have far to travel when he seeks to study the Norway squad.

Its most significant members are all to be found in England, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Henning Berg and Ronny Johnsen at Manchester United. A few more miles in the car and Brown will be able to observe Oyvind Leonhardsen at Liverpool. If Celtic, as expected, buy Harald Brattbak from Rosenborg Trondheim for £2 million next week, the manager will only incur the cost of a taxi fare across Glasgow for part of his research.

In qualifying for the finals, Norway won six and drew two of their eight matches against Hungary, Finland, Switzerland and Azerbaijan. They scored 21 goals and conceded two.

Morocco are one of the most respected of the African

nations and Ghana, Sierra Leone and Gabon, their rivals in the qualifying games, were never likely to prevent an appearance in the finals. Henri Michel, the veteran French manager, is in charge of Morocco and should provide them with an expertise that will be of assistance in his native land next summer.

"I feel we are capable of causing an upset against Norway and Morocco," Brown said, "although they are more highly rated than us in the Fifa rankings. I am always optimistic and we do have a team that is hard to beat." That durability will be tested on June 16, against Norway in Bordeaux, and on June 23, against Morocco in Saint-Etienne.

Scotland were in Saint-Etienne last month, when they lost 2-1 to France, and will now hope that the charm offensive carried out then has carried favour with the locals. Nonetheless, it is the opening fixture of the World Cup, against Brazil, that absorbs the mind.

Supporters hardly know whether to look forward to the sight of Ronaldo, scorer of two goals in the Rest of the World's 5-2 win over Europe in Marseille yesterday, or to dread the consequences for Scotland.

A happy Hoddle tries to keep cool

FROM MATT DICKINSON IN MARSEILLES

GLENN HODDLE did his best to maintain his usual unflappable exterior last night, but there was no mistaking the excitement or the relief, felt by the England coach after his team were drawn in group G.

While recognising Romania's vast World Cup experience, Hoddle knows victory over Colombia and Tunisia should be well within England's reach. "It could have been a lot harder," he said.

"Spain's group is a real tough one, but then again it could have been easier. I feel we are in the middle ground and we can go into it in a positive mood. We are well capable of qualifying but we need to do our homework."

That will apply particularly to Tunisia who England have not played since 1990. Hoddle added: "We will have to start finding out about them straightaway. What they have for breakfast, I have seen them on television, but never in the flesh. We would have picked to play them first, certainly."

"Colombia are unpredictable. They can produce a massive performance one day, but then go out and not play so well the next. With Romania, they have plenty of World Cup experience, more than our squad."

"I feel like I want to start tomorrow, I want to get my teeth into it. If you did not enjoy this, you should not be in the job in the first place."

England's first opponents will be Tunisia and Hoddle will pit his wits against Henryk Kasprczak, the African country's Polish coach who was part of the team that knocked England out of the World Cup in 1973.

Kasprczak said: "England are very strong, but I played against them at Wembley when we knocked them out of the World Cup so anything is possible in football over 90 minutes. We have a lack of experience and tradition, but Tunisia was the first African country to win a World Cup game and we believe we can go through. England have changed their style and have come back stronger, but the weather when we play them in Marseille will suit us."



ZENITH

Swiss Watchmakers since 1865

CHRONOMASTER: case in 18ct gold or steel. Equipped with the legendary ZENITH EL PRIMERO movement, the only automatic chronograph movement to beat at 36,000 alt./hour. Chronograph functions coordinated by a column wheel. Chronometer certificate, five year international guarantee. ZENITH has been rewarded for its precision by the chronometric observatories more frequently than any other Swiss manufacturer.

Fine Jewellery Room, Ground Floor.

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Harrods Ltd, Knightsbridge London SW1 7XL

Tel. 0171 7301234



هكذا من الأهل